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INTIMATE STUDIES IN THE LIVES OF FIFTY WORKING GIRLS.

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of Master of Arts.

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INTIMATE STUDIES OF THE LIVES OF FIFTY WORKING GIRLS.

The purpose of this investigation has been to make an intensive study of the lives of fifty girls working in the sewing trades; to study their inheritance, their home environment; their personal characteristics and their trade history. The object has been to form a definite picture of the individual, and if possible to trace a relationship between the conditions of her personal life and her economic status.

The girls studied were selected almost entirely from the unskilled and untrained groups. They belong to the class that is often out of employment and with five exceptions, each girl has been unemployed during the current winter. They were chosen irrespective of race or religion, nor were they residents of any particular section of the city. There were 25 from Essex District, 12 from Yorkville, 5 from Brooklyn, 3 from Bronx, 2 from Harlem and the same number from Waverley; and one each from the West Side and Westchester. There was, however, an attempt made to study the younger girls, all except five being between the ages of 15 and 20.

There were three classes of workers chosen; assistants to private dressmakers; hand sewers and machine operators. There were 14 of each of the first two groups and 22 of the third. The hand sewers and operators were those employed in waist or dress houses. Where a girl had been both an operator and a hand worker she was classified under the occupation at which she was longest employed.

The fifty girls studied represented the following nationalities:-

American 2; French 1; German 2; Irish 1; Italian 7. The remaining 37 were Jewish girls of which number 31 were Russian, 4 Austrian, 1 Hungarian and 1 German. In view of this preponderance of Jewish girls it is interesting to note that out of the 14 girls who were employed at private dressmaking, only 5 were Hebrews.

Less than half the girls, 18 in all, were born in the United States. Twenty-two were born in Russia, 3 in Austria, 4 in Italy, and 1 each in England, Germany and Hungary. Of the parents only two fathers and one mother were native to the United States. In many cases the girls had been only a very short time in this country.

The birthplaces of the parents were distributed as follows:- 31 of the fathers were born in Russia; 4 in Austria; 7 in Italy; 3 in Germany; 2 in the United States and 1 each in France, Hungary and Ireland. Of the mothers, 31 were from Russia; 5 from Austria; 6 from Italy; 3 from Germany; 2 from France and 1 each from the United States, England and Hungary.

Most of the girls had received a very limited education. Only one attended High School and she remained but one year. Nineteen graduated from the eighth grade; 12 in the seventh grade; 8 in the sixth grade; 1 in the fifth grade. One girl attended parochial school leaving in the sixth grade and 7 girls received their education in Europe. None of the latter group, however, had received the equivalent of a public school education.

Four of the girls graduated from a trade school and 4 others took part of a trade course; 2 went to Business School and 10 attended Evening school. The remaining 30 received no supplementary education.

The lowest wage at which a girl started work was \$3. and the highest beginning wage was \$6. Twenty-six of the girls received less than \$5. At the time the study was made the girls' salaries were as follows:- 6 girls were receiving \$5 or under; 14 between \$5 and \$7; 17 between \$7 and \$9; 7 earned \$9, one \$10, 3 \$12 and 1 was earning at piece work \$24. These figures show conclusively that the investigation was made among the girls who were earning for the most part less than a living wage. Of course owing to the age of the group there had not been a long period of trade life. The greater number had worked between 2 and 4 years, only 7 having worked a longer period. It was found that the girls felt very proud if they had spent six or seven months with the same firm. This seems to have been due to 2 factors; first, the seasonal nature of their trade; and secondly, the lack of trade training which made them among the first to be "laid off" in slow times.

In every case investigated it was found that the girl had faced serious financial difficulties the past winter. Eight were earning their own living and had been unemployed during part of the season; 10 more were the only wage earners in their families and the remaining 32 contributed all or by far the greater share of their earnings toward the family support. Many of the girls were physically impaired by the privations which they had been forced to undergo. While the conditions this past year may have been unusually severe, it is still of interest to note how impossible it is for girls in this class to save money enough to meet such an emergency.

The method of collecting^{data}/has been three-fold - first, the gathering of statistical information; secondly the visit or visits to the home, and thirdly, the study of the individual girl through personal contact. The first information was gathered by means of a questionnaire, a copy of which

will be found at the end of this paper. Through this it was possible to register the important facts of age, education, religion etcetera, and a detailed trade history with references from employers. Much of this information had to be gathered very slowly as too many questions at any one time might arouse antagonism and so prevent a frank and complete study. Much of the information was in some cases impossible to secure accurately, as for example, details of the budget. Where, as was often the case, the girl handed over to her mother, her pay envelope unopened, one could not secure the actual amount expended for amusement or clothes as the amount varied with the weekly condition of the family. In cases of that character one could only judge from the general appearance and the daily life of the girl.

Next came the visits to the home. Here there was an attempt to see the different members of the family as well as the girl; to view all the rooms and to secure not only a general impression but also a detailed picture of family life. No reason beyond that of friendly interest was given for the visit as there was less danger of securing "doctored" information. Many difficulties were experienced in these investigations. Very often the girls were not at home and very few of the mothers spoke English. Then one had to overcome the impression that she might be "one of them charity workers what asks the neighbors about us". There was often a noticeable check in the flow of conversation when the question of the amount paid for rent arose. After several rebuffs one learned the best method of securing this information. If the tenement was a good and comfortable one, open admiration for the home and the remark that "you must have to pay a high rent for so pleasant a tenement" generally brought the desired response. If on the other hand, conditions were bad, the stairs and hall not properly

lighted or cleaned, disapproval of the landlord and the general appearance of the building brought forth the statement that they paid enough money for better accommodations and the amount would follow. Often this took more than one visit. One girl was visited four times before she was found at home. As the first 3 times she had been at the "Movies" light was thrown upon her amusements, even when the visit would seem to have been in vain.

Lastly came the important phase of establishing a personal relationship with the girl. A quite natural opening came in almost every case. Where there was a need of relief or help, as was true in many instances, a very quick basis of understanding was secured. While new positions were being sought, or Clinics visited, or clothing secured there was ample opportunity for long talks in which the girl revealed much of her character and life. This relationship was in almost every case established early in the winter, so there was sufficient time to study the individual. This has been perhaps the most valuable part of the study.

The result of the compiling of these cases has been the securing of more or less complete pictures of the lives of girls who are among the unskilled workers in the sewing trade. It has thrown some light on the forces working upon the individual and has pointed to a possible relationship between these forces and the economic life of the girl. It has also added to the amount of knowledge already accumulated of the hardships and difficulties facing the girl who is earning less than a living wage.

In this investigation a very important influence in the individual life seemed to be the home environment. Therefore the cases are grouped according to this classification,- The girl from the good home: The girl from the bad home: The girl in the furnished room. All except a small number could be easily classified under these heads. The remaining ones were the cases of girls where the determining influence seemed to be a

physical or mental defect.

The standard of a good home was moral rather than physical. Wherever there was an attempt at real home life; where ever there was love and interest between parent and child; wherever there were definite standards of right and wrong, the home was considered good. The bad home was often the broken home, the home where one or both parents were entirely unsympathetic or even unfit for the training of children, and certain homes where excessive poverty tended to blunt all ambition and to produce an almost paralyzing effect upon the physical and mental energy of the members of the family.

I. The Girl with a Bad Home Environment.

Josephine S;

To be the main support of a family has a subduing influence upon a grown man or woman. When, however, this burden is placed upon the shoulders of a young and attractive girl the result is often tragic. This has been the fate of seventeen year old Josephine.

Josephine is a beautiful girl with a sunny and buoyant nature. She is short and dark. Her hair is a mass of heavy curls and she has large black eyes. She is refined and has a musical voice and laugh. Not only has the girl these natural gifts, but is blessed with inherent good taste. Her few poor clothes are well made and of the most becoming shades. The girl attracts attention wherever she goes because of her almost startling beauty.

Now picture this child under the following conditions. The family consists of father, mother and seven children. The father is a very stern man and takes very little interest in his children, except when they annoy him.

He is a tailor by trade and has been out of work almost all of the present winter. The mother is a very beautiful woman both in character and appearance, but is unable to do any work outside of the home as she has young children to care for and as her physical health is not good. She speaks very little English and knows surprisingly little of American customs and ideals. Her main object seems to be to act as peace-maker between the father and children. There is only one child besides Josephine old enough to work. This is an older brother who has worked as a clerk in an office, receiving from \$8 to \$9 a week. He lost his position this winter and has been unable to secure another.

The family lives in a very ill-kept tenement on the fifth floor back. The stairs leading to the home are in bad repair and the lights in the hall are often out. The family occupy four small rooms, for which they pay \$14. a month. Two of these rooms open out on a dingy court. The other two have no light, except from windows out into the outer rooms in accordance with the regulations for old-law tenements. The mother, father, Josephine and the next oldest sister sleep in the front room. The other children sleep in the inner room and the brother in the back room. Mrs. S. keeps the house very clean, but the furniture, bedding, dishes and kitchen utensils are inadequate for her needs.

Josephine went to public school but left in the seventh grade in order that she might get a trade training at some school, before it was necessary for her to go to work. She studied for one year at the Manhattan Trade School and has a very good record for attendance, for faithfulness to her work and for skill. At the end of the year she was placed directly from the school in a dress house as a finisher at \$5 a week. She worked in this place for three months and left at the end of the season when the work was slack. She took a temporary position as examiner at \$7 a week with a firm on East

Third Street, and has been with them from time to time when there was work. When it was slack she was laid off but as soon as they took any help on, they sent for Josephine. In all, she has been there nine months, with intervals between either of unemployment or of temporary positions in other houses. She enjoys the work there and is anxious to stay as there is an opportunity for advancement, but she feels that she is greatly handicapped by the fact that the firm lays off so many girls during the slow seasons.

On Saturdays nights when Josephine is paid her \$7, she brings it home and gives it all to her mother. She does not have to pay any carfares as she lives within walking distance of her work and as she takes her lunch from home each day, there is no expenditure for a noon meal. Her mother gives her whatever is necessary of clothing, which is very little, because of the fact that the girl is able to make very attractive clothing out of very inexpensive materials. Last summer she had a little yellow muslin dress which only cost her eighty cents. She receives five cents a week for amusements. She belongs to a girls' club where the dues are five cents a month. Occasionally she goes to a moving picture house. On Saturdays she attends the nearest Catholic Church and in the afternoon often goes for a walk with a girl friend. This seems to be the extent of her good times.

This winter has been an unusually hard one. The family income has been \$7 brought in by Josephine each week and an occasional \$1.50 extra which the girl has made by bringing home work at nights. There has been a great deal of sickness in the family. The little four year old girl died early in January of diphtheria. When Josephine was asked if she had had to stay home from work when her sister was ill, she said:-"Oh no! We just put my sister in the front room and no one went in but my mother". When asked if she saw her mother during this time, she said:- "Yes. Mother came out to get our meals for us". In addition to this sickness the little six year old girl had had

very serious trouble with her stomach, which may prove to be tubercular, and Mrs. S. is also ill and is expecting another child. The whole family seem utterly discouraged. Josephine says: "I have not been out with the girls for weeks. I don't have the heart to do anything. Each year things are worse than the year before. What future have I ahead?"

This last question is difficult to answer. Here is a case of a girl of good character with a record of conscientious work and with some trade training, who because of family conditions over which she has no control, has been held back and discouraged and her physical condition undermined so that it is impossible for her to do the work for which she is trained. She has lost courage, energy and hope. Even her brilliant beauty is dimmed. All that under other circumstances might have developed has been crushed out. Her one ambition is to earn enough money to keep starvation away. It is cruel waste and the world loses by it.

Catherine C.

Catherine a twenty year old Italian girl, lives on East 45th Street. The father is a saloon keeper and the family occupy five rooms over the saloon on the first floor. There are ten children in the family, two girls and eight boys and the rooms are crowded to their utmost capacity.

Mr. C. is a big, good looking well dressed man. As is customary in Italian families, he is the ruling spirit and reigns supreme over the children and his wife. As is also very common, the mother in spite of her twenty-five years in this country has learned very little of the language, speaking only the most broken English. She spends her time in her home or in those of her Italian neighbors and seems bewildered by the Americanization of her children. They are to her almost strange beings, except of course, the younger ones, and she leaves all of their guidance and control in the hands of her

husband. Her only duties are to prepare food for their needs, to do her household tasks and care for the physical wants of her little ones.

Catherine is the second oldest child. There is a boy of twenty-two and another of eighteen, wage earners besides herself. The other children are all under fifteen. They seem to be a happy and healthy group--the boys noisy, boisterous and full of fun--the girls unusually attractive and well mannered. They have all attended the public school in the neighborhood and while they do not show any evidence of unusual brilliancy, they are apparently of average intelligence. The family belongs to the Roman Catholic Church and attend services regularly.

The home of the C's is not an attractive one. It is neither orderly nor clean and there is no place that looks inviting. There is a little there that would attract and hold a girl upon her return from the day's work. No room of her own of course, but more than that, not even a comfortable corner with an easy chair, in which to rest or read or sew. All the rooms are cluttered up, small and dirty children are climbing over all the furniture and the mother, also dirty and untidy, seems to be continually talking in a loud and complaining voice. It is a little wonder that the young people seek their amusement elsewhere.

Catherine left the public school in the seventh grade at the age of fourteen in order to go to work. She received a position in a dress house as a learner at \$3.50 a week and remained here one year. She finally left as she was unable to make more money and secured a position with a private dressmaker on East Fifty-second Street as an improver. She started here at \$4 and was soon raised to \$6. She proved an efficient worker and remained here for a year and a half when she again felt that she could do better elsewhere and left. For two years, she worked as finisher with a dressmaker on the West Side earning \$9. Unfortunately at the end of this time, her mother was taken ill

and Catherine had to give up her work to "mind the house". She remained at home about a year and she has just this winter returned to her last position.

All the amusements of the C. family occur outside of the home. The older boys congregate in the back room of the father's saloon, but the girls are not allowed to come there even as the bearers of messages. Catherine is especially fond of the movies and spends most of her spare pennies on the tickets. This has often caused serious dissension in the house as the father believes it is dangerous for a girl to be out alone at all. Catherine is so unusually pretty and bright that she is much sought after by the boys in the neighborhood and is continually invited out to a dance. Mr. C. is anxious for his daughter to marry and so gives his consent to these parties whenever he happens to approve of the boy but unfortunately Catherine and her father often have opposing tastes. Several times the girl has threatened to leave home after a serious quarrel but the trouble blows over quickly and matters are temporarily adjusted. However, the home is not a good one for a young and pretty girl who desires above all else, to have a good time. She is practically forced to seek her pleasures outside of it and this in itself is a great source of danger. Although her work references are exceedingly good there has of late been a change in her attitude toward her work; a feeling that it's a burden and that life should hold better things. Unless this girl is more carefully guided, and given opportunity for more normal and happier good times, it is quite possible that her value as a worker may be seriously impaired.

Annie S.

Annie, aged twenty, Jewish, living on Clinton Street, has a bad home environment. The mother died when she was a baby and her father almost immediately married again. She has four half sisters, and one half brother, all under working age. The two younger children have been committed to an orphan home as it was impossible for the family to support them and the other children

have struggled along with insufficient food and unhappy home surroundings.

After his second marriage, Mr. S. moved to Ossing, N.Y. He was a fisherman there and managed to keep the home together until three years ago when he died. Almost immediately, the mother brought the children to New York, and started a home in a tenement on East Second Street. Anna was immediately put to work, and the money she earned was the only support of the family, save that which came from one boarder, a man who paid \$8. a month. Annie had no education beyond 6B and was only fourteen years of age when she left school. Her first position was as an operator on ladies skirts on Wooster Street. She worked here for six months at piece work earning from \$3. to \$7 a week, and finally lost her position because of illness. When she became too ill to work her mother had to secure a position. She began cleaning show cases for a firm on Canal Street, where she earned \$6 a week. As soon as Annie was better she went back to the same place where she worked for a period of three months, when work became slack. She has never held any other position for more than two or three days, for whenever work picks up she is taken back again into her first position.

This winter, the family moved to their present home. They occupy three rooms for which they pay \$10. The house is dirty and badly kept and Mrs. S. has a bad record among the neighbors. They say "she sin't straight" and also that "she is a regular beggar". She has appealed several times to the Charities for relief, but the investigator did not feel that it would be wise to give money in this case. The neighbors are also suspicious of Annie and say that she is out late at night with men. The girl is unusually attractive. A rather frail type, and seems to be frank. As far as can be determined by investigations, there seems to be little truth in the reports about the girl. They seem to be largely circulated by the mother. Effort has been made to take the girl out of the home and to get her work with sufficient wage to support herself.

but Annie clings to the surroundings that she knows and dreads to make any

change at all. This is probably a case where the girl will not be successful in her trade life; she is untrained and seems to have little or no ambition to supplement her education. She is in delicate health and unable to stand the strain of hard work or the regularity of long hours. She has also a weak will and is easily influenced by the people with whom she lives. Her one ambition is to "get married so I won't have to work".

Gertrude C.

With a father refusing to support his family and constantly quarrelling with his children and a mother forced to go out each day to work, home is not a very happy place for a young girl. This has been the case of Gertrude and eighteen year old American girl living with her parents in a suburb of New York.

Mr. C. has never been successful in making a good living for his family and for the last five or six years has refused to work. According to Gertrude he "gets cross over nothing and scolds all the time, but doesn't very often hit us. He just scolds and scolds and scolds; nothing is ever right. We are all afraid of him, even my mother". He demands that his wife support him, but resents the fact that her work takes her out of the home. Gertrude says the doctors think "there is something growing inside of his head" which may account for his irritability. The mother was born in England and came to the United States about eighteen years ago as a housemaid. For years after her marriage she went out to work by the day and for the past five years has had the entire support of her family. At the present time she goes out as a practical nurse for \$15. a week and is rarely ever home except occasionally for three or four days between cases. Mrs. C. is a very superior woman. She is unusually kind and is so generous that according to her daughter "everybody takes advantage of it".

Gertrude graduated from Grammar school at the age of sixteen with a good record. She enjoyed her work there and wished to go to High school but her father objected so she was placed out to work with a dressmaker, in White Plains. She worked there for four months receiving \$3. a week. From there she went to another dressmaker where she remained for six months earning \$5. She then secured a position in the City with an embroidery company, operating on trimming and embroidery where she earned \$4.50. Gertrude has never been strong or well and for years has been unhappy in her home. In speaking of her childhood she says; "As a little child, I remember father was always good to me and it is only perhaps the last six years that he has been different. He is always cross from the time I get up until I go to bed. If mother were home it would be different. Ever since I left school he has found fault with me and said that I ought to get out to work and when I get a position he does not want me to go".

As a natural result of this unhappy home life, Gertrude began to seek amusement elsewhere. At first she seemed to have sought for simple good times with the boys and girls of the neighborhood, but later she began going with a bad crowd and reports came from her place of work that she was irregular in attendance. Finally one day she did not come home from work at all and her family were unable to trace her. The police in New York were notified and she was finally found in a furnished room on East 29th Street by one of the officers from the Bureau of Missing People. The girl was then brought to a Detention Home for investigation. It was discovered that she had come to New York with a man who had lived in White Plains with whom she had been going unknown to her parents for several months. She gave as her reason "I just couldn't stand the way things were at home. I have talked to mother and begged her to get work for me away from home, but she always urged me to stay until she came again. Thursday I made up my mind I would come to New York, get a furnished

room and find work, so I got Mr. V. to bring me. This morning I got a position on Twenty-eight Street, but to-night the officer found me. I don't know how and brought me here".

Gertrude is an unusually pretty girl, appearing rather young and childish. Her mother was sent for and when it was discovered that the mother was a good woman she was advised to make some change in her home conditions, so that she could see more of the girls and so they would not be forced to be so much with the father. Mrs. C. immediately disposed of her house in White Plains, came to New York and took a small apartment and secured day work with a physician who knew her. Gertrude found a position which she kept for six weeks then married a young man, whom she had known for several months. The girl is now settled in her own home and conditions are very much better for her.

Ida R:

Ida is a fifteen year old Jewish girl who lives with her parents and three younger brothers on Cherry Street. The father is a "presser by pants" and when working received about \$10 a week. This past winter he was out of work a great part of the time seldom earning more than \$2. a week. As Mrs. R. is not strong enough to go out to work by the day, practically the entire support of the family has come upon Ida.

Ida was born in Russia and has been in this country seven years. She went to public school and reached the seventh grade. Just before her fourteenth birthday she was taken out in order to earn money and help support the family. She was placed in a novelty house on Grand Street where she received \$5. and she remained in this position for seven months. Her employer said that she was an unusually bright girl and very faithful and interested in her work and he seemed very sorry to have to lay her off.

The family occupy three rooms for which they pay \$12. a month. The tenement house is in very bad repair; the halls often not lighted; the stairs broken and out of repair; and the sanitary conditions bad. Mrs. R. is a delicate woman and seems to have little ambition to keep the home and the children clean. This winter they have been often desperately in need of food and many days they only had one meal which was quite insufficient for their needs. According to the neighbors the father has been so weak for the lack of proper food that he has been unable to look for work. There was little clothing for the children, and because of this the younger boys were unable to go to school. For a long time, it never seemed to occur to them to call upon the charities for aid and it was only by accident that the case was brought to the attention to the charitable organization and some temporary help secured for them. It was impossible to get a position for the girl as she was not yet sixteen and employers were not anxious to take a young girl when they could secure older ones. The girl was placed in a relief sewing room where she earned sixty cents a day and on this small amount the family lived until about a month ago, when the father's work began to pick up and he was able to earn \$5 or \$6 a week.

The conditions under which Ida lives are unspeakable. The rooms are dark, dirty and badly ventilated and there is inadequate furniture to meet the needs of the family. The three boys sleep in the bedroom with the mother and father and Ida sleeps in an unmade bed in a dark room. The kitchen which is used as a living room has an old broken table which is continually covered with unwashed dishes; three chairs, one without a back and a stove which has apparently never been blacked. The mother speaks no English and when a visitor is conversing with other members of the family, does not even seem interested enough to ask what she wants. However, in the last month decided improvement has been shown probably because Ida has become more ambitious and is trying to teach her mother

more of the American standards of living.

Until this winter, Ida has had no friends of her own age and no amusements at all. She is a rather quiet, shy girl. About two months ago, she joined a club of girls and it has been pitiful to see how much she has developed. She did not even know how to talk to other girls when she first joined and would be quite scared if anyone took any interest in her. Little by little she has increased in confidence and a short time ago was discovered out in the hall with another girl trying to learn to dance. This seems to be the case of a girl who is bright willing and faithful and who under the proper influence would blossom out into a happy and efficient girl. Her lack of ambition, and her shyness, previous to this time seems to be largely the result of a depressing home environment.

Mollie S.

Another case similar to that of Ida is Mollie who lives in the same house on Cherry Street. Mollie is sixteen years old, was born in Russia and came to this country four years ago with her parents and two brothers and three sisters. She graduated from public school after being in attendance there for three years. She went to work at the age of fifteen in a firm on Willett Street as a finisher on vests earning \$6. a week and stayed there for nine months. She was laid off this past winter because business was slow. It has been absolutely impossible for her to secure another position partly because conditions were bad and largely because her father, who is a very orthodox Jew will not allow the children to work on Saturday.

The home life has been very unhappy. The father drinks heavily and absolutely refuses to do any work. He has destroyed all of the childrens' respect for him and what is more serious their religion, because "his religion don't do him any good. He keeps right on drinking. All it ever does for us is to keep us out of work. You cannot

us out of work. You cannot get a job if you don't work Saturdays and if you do get anything it is in some awful place down here, and I want to work up town". The mother who speaks no English and who is very much afraid of the father, will do nothing to help the children to secure the independence for which they long. The children seem to be waiting to be old enough to leave the home entirely and make their own living. The nineteen year old boy has already done this, but the other children are still fretting under the present conditions.

The family occupy three rooms on the fourth floor for which they pay \$9 a month. The rooms are small and dark and dirty, and there is no incentive to keep them in any other condition. The three girls sleep in the inner room. The boys in the kitchen and the parents have a bed in the living room. This winter the family income has been only \$3. a week and there have been many days when it was impossible for them to get sufficient food to meet their needs. Owing to the fact that the father was able-bodied and only lost his position through drink, it was impossible to secure money from any relief organization, so long as the mother insisted upon living with him. Therefore, it was necessary to place Mollie in one of the sewing rooms where she could bring home \$3. to the family. The girl will probably never have much of a future as she has no will and seems to lack ambition. She is rather a pretty girl and is very fond of the boys and likes to go to moving picture "shows" and dances with them. She says "I do not have to pay anything for them. I can always get some fellows to take me". She stays out very late at night on the streets and gives as her excuse the fact that she can't stand her home. Unless the girl is placed in very different surroundings it would seem as though her chances for "making good" and living the right kind of a life, were very slight.

Minnie W.

Since the death of her father, the serious responsibility of the family has fallen upon Minnie's shoulders. Until that time, while there was poverty and anxiety yet it was possible for Minnie to continue school and later to receive special training. However, after his death, three years ago, Minnie and her older sister were forced to support the family.

Minnie was born in Russia and came to this country twelve years ago with her parents. She went to the public school until the sixth grade and then to Hebrew Technical School where she took a course in dressmaking for a year. She has a record for faithfulness, but little else in her favor. According to her teachers, she was very slow to learn and very inaccurate in detail. She did not seem at all fitted for the work she had chosen to do.

When sixteen years old, Minnie took her first position with a firm on Sixth Avenue as a preparer earning \$4 a week. She secured this through the school agency. She remained two months, became discontented with the wages and left in order to look for a place where she would be able to earn more money. In this search, she was very unsuccessful for several months. Finally she secured a position as finisher with a private dressmaker, but for the same amount of \$4. This time, she managed to remain three months and again was dissatisfied. Once more she was out of work and only by appealing again to the school did she secure another position as finisher at \$4 a week. This time she seemed to have realized the necessity of holding the position and she remained with this firm eleven months when business became dull and as her work was of the low grade, she was among the first to be laid off. As it was impossible to secure a position for her, she was placed in a relief sewing room for two months when she again secured a position as a finisher this time at \$4.50 a week.

Minnie lives with her mother, older sister and two younger brothers in three dark rooms on Broome Street. The rent of this tenement is \$10.50 a month. As it has been impossible for the family to meet this expense, for nearly a year, the amount has been paid by the Charities. The mother is a feeble woman, who speaks very little English and who seems incapable of assuming any responsibility toward her family, either in keeping the house clean or in cooking proper food for the children. The only other source of income is that brought in by Minnie. The two boys are still in school and the mother is counting upon the time when they will be fourteen and able to help in the support of the family. There is nothing attractive about the home or about the family life to create ambition. Minnie frequently admits that she does not like her home. Her one aim is to be married and "get out of it". She spends most of her time on the streets, hanging around the entrances of moving picture houses in the hopes of being invited to enter, or walking up and down the streets arm and arm, with a girl chum, looking for excitement.

There seems to be little one is able to do for this girl, because she hasn't ambition enough to escape from her environment. While she doesn't like her home surroundings, she does nothing to better them. The girl hopes that some day a miracle will happen and "something nice will happen to me".

Fannie W.

Fannie is a much more ambitious girl than her sister Minnie. She is just as unhappy in her home life and just as discontented with her work and the wages, but she does not intend to live in these conditions all her life. She realizes that in order to do better work and to get better pay she must study and so she is trying to supplement her meagre education by going to night

school and by taking advantage of whatever educational opportunities the city offers.

When she was fourteen years old she was taken out of school and put to work as an operator in a dress house at \$6 and has remained in that same position for the last three years, earning at the present time \$7.50. "Just as soon as times are better, I am going to leave and see if I can't get a place with more money. I know I am a good operator and I should be earning \$9. but we need the money very much now so I don't dare give up this place. You see, there is only my sister Minnie besides me earning money and we have a hard time."

In the evenings, while her sister is out with her friends, Fannie is either at night school or studying at home or mending the clothes of the younger children. She makes all of her own dresses and some of the childrens.

Although having the same inheritance and environment as the other members of the family, this girl is far superior in mentality to any of the others. She is the center about which the family moves and without her it is doubtful whether they would be able to maintain the home.

Sarah B.

Seventeen year old Sarah is a cause of dissension and unhappiness in the home where she lives with her father, step-mother and six brothers and sisters. After a visit to the crowded tenement house on Avenue B. one wonders how much she can be blamed for complaining of the lot and seeking pleasure and amusement elsewhere.

Mr. and Mrs. B. were born in Russia and came here when very young. The children were born in this country. Four years ago the mother died and within three months, the father married again. The younger children were committed to

the Orphan Asylum, but a year ago were taken back into the home.

The father is an "operator by pants" and when working earns \$10 a week. This winter, however he has averaged between \$2 and \$3, and many weeks has received no pay at all. The oldest boy is on the road and is entirely independent of the family income. The two oldest girls, Lena and Sarah are operators on ladies waists and when at work, during this past winter, have received \$5. a week. A young boy, aged fourteen has just been taken out of school to be put to work. The three little children are still in the public school.

The tenement house in which they live is very old and in bad condition. The stairs are out of repair and the halls badly lighted and the whole place so filthy that it is almost impossible to stand the odor. The family occupy three rooms in the rear of the fourth floor. These rooms are light but very small and apparently are only cleaned once a week when the family prepare for the Jewish services on Friday nights. Mr. and Mrs. B. and the two youngest children, aged eight and eleven, occupy the only bedroom. Sarah and Lena have a bed in the kitchen and the boy has a small dark room to himself. The rent of this tenement is \$11. There is very little furniture. The floors are uncarpeted, the chairs are broken and there is no attempt to make the home attractive.

The step-mother seems to have no ambition and spends most of the time, regretting the fact that "my man had seven children." She claims that if she had known what she was "getting into" she would never have married him. She seems, however, to be good to the children, because she is "afraid to touch the kids as my husband threatened to lock me up if I did".

There is very little real family life in this home. The older children are out every night, and the younger children have no love or respect for either of their parents. The only time the family come together is on Friday nights, when they hold strictly to the customs of the orthodox Jew. Every

Friday, the children hurry home from school to clean the house while the mother gets down four or five brass candle sticks and shines them and fills them with fresh candles. During the past winter, the members of the family went without proper food so that they might save up money for the feast of the Pasover. "Why, It will cost us between \$15 and \$20 just to do what we think is necessary. You see I have to have everything painted and I have to buy new dishes, and matzoths and though we may be poor, we know how to do things right. No. The children don't like to keep the holidays as well as we do, but we make them. That's the trouble with this country. The girls make fun of all the things their folks believe in. I will be glad when they are grown up and can do for themselves, because I am sick of it all".

Sarah went to public school but left in the fifth grade. She then went to work in a dress house on East Twenty-second Street where she worked for a year. For a time, she received \$12. a week as an operator on waists. There was a fire in the building and the firm went out of business. She then went to a dress company on West Twenty-fourth Street, where she remained for two years, receiving \$12. a week until she was laid off. This winter she has only held temporary positions. Although she had been out of work for three months, she absolutely refused to take a temporary position at \$5. a week even when the family were on the point of starvation and were forced to accept help from the Charities. Her idea of the world is that it owes her a living and she becomes greatly incensed if help is refused. She is the type of a girl that would easily become dependent.

Just before Christmas, Sarah was placed temporarily in a private relief sewing room, where she was paid fifty cents an afternoon for two afternoons a week. One day when she had temporary work give her, she came to the work room about an hour before closing time slipped into a seat in the back of the

room, without being noticed and received her money for the afternoon's work. When it was discovered, she seemed to think that it was a legitimate thing to have done. She needed the money and it was right to get it in any way. It took a long time to convince her that it was dishonest. About a week later she came to the sewing room and asked to be allowed to sew an afternoon for nothing as she was ashamed of the other episode and wanted to "make good".

For amusement, Sarah depends upon the streets. She has a great many friends in the neighborhood and just as soon as she has had her supper she starts out and goes to their homes or to a moving picture house or dance hall. When she was working and earning \$12. a week, she gave \$5. a week to the family and spent the rest upon clothes or good times. She had no sense of responsibility or an idea of saving for the future. Her main complaint this winter has been not that the family were having hard times, but "I cannot go out anymore or have any fun".

Sarah is an interesting and common type of girl. She is strong and apparently capable of holding positions whenever she wishes to, but she is lacking in a sense of responsibility and in reverence for her family, the latter largely due to the fact that the members of her family do not inspire admiration. She is also easily influenced by her associates. For her own good, it would seem important to get her a position which would interest and keep her busy and occupied.

Margaret C.

Margaret is a fifteen year old, Irish girl. She was found in the Grand Central Station by one of the workers of the Travelers Aid early this winter. She refused to give her name or the address of her aunt in this city with

whom she lived, but finally gave the fictitious name of "Tootsie O'Brien". She was taken to the Washington Square Home for the night. Upon investigation it was found that her mother was a French woman and had died seven years before and her father of Irish descent five years before. Margaret with two brothers and sisters were given into the care of an aunt. Since that time all the other children have died, one killed in an accident; the others seem to have suffered from congenital weakness. This aunt proved to be a very bad and cruel woman. She drank heavily and was intoxicated part of the time. Not only that but she was openly leading an immoral life, living with another man besides her husband. Margaret was abused and forced to give all her wages to her aunt, who did not even allow the girl money for food. The janitress in the house where the family lived said she often found Margaret locked out in the hall all night and would take her into her room with her.

It is difficult to describe the home conditions under which Margaret lived. The family have moved constantly in the five years since the death of Margaret's father. Part of the time, Mrs. C. was living in the basement back of a coal cellar. Margaret has lived at the present address the longest time of all. It is a three room apartment on West Nineteenth Street. She is a Roman Catholic and attended a church on West Fifty-ninth Street regularly going to confession often. She had received her education at a parochial school on West Twenty-fifth Street and had reached the sixth grade when she left and took a position on Fifth Avenue, and left there to go to a firm as as a slip stitcher on piece work. Here she earned \$10 a week. Her employer said she was an excellent worker, but not at all to be depended upon, and he was not certain that she was honest. There had been a series of thefts committed at the factory and while he had no proof he discharged Margaret with two or three other girls who were under suspicion. Margaret gave as the

reason for her discharge, her impudence to the forewoman. She was out of work for two months and then secured a position on Grand Street as a slip stitcher at \$6 a week.

When it was discovered the kind of home from which Margaret came the girl was not forced to go back to it but board was secured for her at a girls' boarding home at \$3.50 a week. The matron of the home was interested in her story and gave her every opportunity possible to "make good". However, Margaret almost immediately lost her position because of her untidiness and lack of punctuality. She was then placed in the Manhattan Trade School as a helper in one of the sewing rooms. The teachers in charge there reported that she did very good work but that she was often out a day or came late and that it was impossible to keep her. In the meantime, Margaret was forced to leave the home. Another room was secured for her on East Seventeenth Street.

It was decided later that possibly a stronger influence might be brought to bear on Margaret. The priest was interested in the girl and he tried to do what he could to show her the foolishness of her ways, but unfortunately he was no more successful than any other friends of the girl had been. The girl was feeling so strongly her first freedom that she did not have the good judgment not to abuse it. She was out until all hours of the night, was accused of stealing articles from the girls in the house, and it was absolutely impossible for her to keep a position although she was capable of doing the work. She was not really a bad girl only irresponsible and very much in need of strict training and supervision. Finally upon the advice of the priest it was decided to place the girl in a Catholic Home where she would receive the supervision and instruction which she so much needed. As she was under age, she was placed in the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and was later admitted through the Children's

Court to a Catholic home on East Twenty-first Street for a period of two months and further commitment depended upon her behavior while there.

In less than a week, the Mother Superior said that it would be impossible to keep the girl there any longer as she was demoralizing the whole house and was a bad example for the other girls. She was then referred back to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, where she is at the present time waiting for disposition of her case.

Margaret is an unusually attractive looking girl. She is small and slight with brown hair and brown eyes and is always ready to laugh and make friends. She is evidently suffering from a bad inheritance and has had no proper environment to counteract the effects.

Eva L.

For over a year now Eva has been the only member of the family of nine to earn any money. The father who had a pushcart business was taken ill and has been unable to work for two years. There are six little brothers all under fourteen and the mother is too busy in the home to go out to do any work. Therefore, the seventeen year old girl must provide for the family.

Of course, it has been impossible for Eva to do this alone and it has been necessary for various organizations to help them. The Hebrew Charities have at different times paid the rent. Through a girls' club to which Eva belongs, help has been given her at different times for clothing or for coal when there was any special need. In spite of this aid, however, it has been a hard struggle and the girl shows the effects of the strain.

Eva attended public school and left at the age of seventeen when she was in the seventh grade to go to work. She secured a position as a hem-stitcher in a waist house, starting at \$4.50 and was soon advanced to \$6.

She kept this position for four months, when she was laid off. After having only temporary positions for two or three weeks, with weeks of unemployment between, she was taken back again into the firm where she started again at \$6 a week. She remained here this time for six months, being raised to \$7 toward the end of this period. Her employer became very much interested in her and when he learned the circumstances of her home life, he made it a point to keep her just as long as he could keep any of his girls in the slow season. Often when business was bad, he would keep her at least three days a week. Often he loaned her money and one summer, not only gave her her vacation, but paid her board for part of the time. Largely through the interest of this man, it has been possible for Eva to work in this same place for three years as a hemstitcher, although the employment has been far from regular.

The conditions under which the girl lives are poor and far from ideal. There is often not enough food for the children and several times this past winter, the little boys have been kept home from school because they have not had enough warm clothing to wear. Mrs. L. is quite discouraged by the struggle and is often so depressed that the members of the family are quite unable to cheer her up. "Mother cries so much. Almost every night, when I go home from work, I find her crying, and that makes the children unhappy. It doesn't seem to make any difference how things are going, mother always feels just the same about them. If I am not working, then she does not know how we are going to get along and if I am working, then she doesn't know how we are going to live on my wages. She has had such a hard time, she doesn't seem to be able to cheer up any more". The father, who is suffering from very severe rheumatism, is either at the hospital, or lying around the house, suffering. Four of the boys are in school and the other two are still too young to go. All of these nine people are crowded into three small, dark

and dirty rooms. Everything about the home is unattractive and it is a wonder that so fine a girl could come from such surroundings.

Eva has very little time for amusement, as well as no money to spend for it. Four evenings a week she attends evening school and the fifth she goes to a girls' club, which is her one time for being with young people. Considering the fact that she has no little money to spend on clothing, she looks remarkably well-dressed. A short time ago, a woman who became interested in her, gave her a suit. It was the first new suit that Eva has had for six years and she was over-joyed. With great pride she showed to everybody the Wanamaker's label on the coat. "You see, I have always had my suits from a pushcart or sometimes from a little store in Hester Street. It is wonderful to have one from Wanamaker's. I wish I could wear the label on the front."

There seems to be only one serious fault to find with Eva. She is very easily influenced and unfortunately she has become very devoted to another girl, who is a violent socialist. This influence is far from good. Often, after Eva has been with this girl, she will be almost impossible to manage; anxious to give up her position, which is an unusually good one. She will talk about the "world owing me a lot" and is quite different from her normal self.

Effort is being made at the present time to keep these girls apart. Aside from this, Eva is capable of doing good work, and should be a success in spite of her unhappy home conditions.

Elizabeth C.

Elizabeth is a pretty twenty year old Italian girl who has been in the dressmaking trade for almost five years. She left the public school when in the seventh grade for the purpose of going to work and helping the family.

She was anxious to have some special training, but felt that she could not afford the time as the family were in desperate need and she wanted to be a real help. She secured a position with a dressmaking firm on Eighty-fifth Street as a learner starting at \$3. and finally receiving \$4. Here she remained for eight months, learning every possible thing she could and left because "there wasn't any opportunity for learning more. I could have stayed there all the rest of my life and never been a better dressmaker". Her next position was at hand sewing for \$5 a week. She remained here for five months and left as she was able to secure a position where she earned from \$6 to \$7 a week. She remained in this position a year and a half. She became very discontented because she was expected to deliver the things and did not like the idea of being an errand girl. She left here, unfortunately at a time when the season was slow. Then followed several temporary positions where she earned from \$7 to \$8 a week but only remained a month or two months. For three months she was out of work and finally went back to the firm where she had been for the year and a half and began again at \$5. Of course, she was very much discouraged and felt that there was very little future when at the end of four years was earning practically the same amount as when she began.

Elizabeth lives with her father and mother, three younger sisters and one brother in a four room tenement on East Forty-first Street. Her father is a driver and is out of work a great deal of the time and does very little to support the family. He is not very kind to the children and is very strict with Elizabeth and very suspicious of anything she does. Several times the girl has threatened to leave home, because "I am always being picked on". The mother generally acts as peace-maker in cases like this, but dares not take the side of the girl very definitely. The younger children also

have trouble at home and are very unhappy there.

Mrs. C. is a very good housekeeper. The rooms are kept clean and an attempt is made to keep them attractive as well. The mother is very anxious for the girls to stay in at night as there is so much trouble with the father if they go out and in order to make them glad to remain at home, she seems to realize the necessity of allowing them to have their friends there. However, in spite of her wisdom in this matter, she does not use very good judgment in other respects. She takes all of the girl's wages and then makes her ask for every thing she needs. This has been a great hardship to both Elizabeth and her sister, and it has led in two different instances, to their concealing from their parents any raise which they receive. For six months, Elizabeth brought home one dollar less than she was actually receiving, although the family thought she was turning over her entire pay envelope.

This is not the only way in which the girl has deceived her parents. She is always giving reasons for going out evenings, that are incorrect. She says that she is going to the home of a friend in the neighborhood, and instead meets the boys and girls on the corner and goes to the "movies" or walks up and down the avenue in search of a good time. However, she seems to have no desire for anything that is really wrong, simply is anxious for all the pleasure and amusements which mean so much to a girl of her age.

Unfortunately, the relation between Elizabeth and her parents is beginning to be more strained as the years go on. She more and more realizes that after five years of hard work, she should have some independence. Elizabeth is anxious to be married in order to escape from the drudgery of her home life.

Catherine B.

Catherine's father keeps a fruit stand on Third Avenue. He has been in this small place for years and is able to make enough money to support his wife and younger children. The older ones, however, have to go to work as soon as they reach the age of fourteen. Catherine was born in New York sixteen years ago of Italian parents. She graduated from public school and entered a trade school where she took a course in dressmaking and graduated. She immediately secured a position with a private dressmaker at \$5 a week and is at the present time earning \$9. She has been with this firm for two years and her record is good. Her employer says "She does such careful work I am always sure that she will never spoil anything. She has become a very valuable worker and I hope to keep her with me." There seems to be a future for this girl, as she learns quickly and will soon be able to do more responsible work. Catherine is very happy in her work and eager to "make good".

The home life of the family is not very happy. Mr. B. has a violent temper and his wife and his children seem very much afraid of him. "I never know what mood he will come home in. Some nights he is just as nice as he can be and then other nights, we are afraid to say anything to him. He won't let me go out at all at night, so I have to sneak out. Then there is trouble if he finds it out".

Besides Catherine, there is a nineteen year old girl, who is constantly ill. She has been in the hospital for a great part of the last two years and has lately developed tuberculosis. She was sent away to a convalescent home for three months, but came back little better for the change. She is now at home and the mother does what she can to supply her with eggs and milk and to follow out the directions given by the doctor. Unfortunately, the girl shares the same room with Catherine and it is almost impossible to make the mother

see the danger of this. A twelve year old girl and an eight year old boy are still in school and seem to be healthy normal children. However, they "run wild on the streets" and have very little respect for the authority of their parents. The only power they recognize is the anger of the father.

The house, itself, is very unattractive. It is not kept clean and seems to be all cluttered up with a great many useless articles of furniture and bric-a-brac and ornaments. There are no signs of desperate poverty, but the whole home is influenced by the indolence of the mother and the fear of the whole family for the father. Catherine openly admits that she is unhappy there. "I just hate it. I am so happy while I am working and then I have to go home to that. If it weren't for my sister, I don't think I could stand it, but I am so sorry for her. It must be dreadful not to be able to get out and away from it. When I think of her at home all day in that awful place, I know I can stand it. I wouldn't leave her for the world. Some day, I am afraid my father will turn me out, because I just can't stand all he says to me".

It is rather hard when one feels this way about her home to have to turn in almost all of one's money to the support of the home. This is the case with Catherine. When she brings home her \$8 or \$9 a week, she is only allowed to keep about \$2 of it; the rest is given right over to the father. When Catherine needs clothes she has to ask for them. "I just have to beg and beg and it does seem hard after I have worked and earned it all. I sometimes think I can't stand it much longer."

Florence L.

Florence is a draper by trade and a very successful one. She graduated from public school and went immediately to work in a dress house as an exam-

iner and later as a draper. In her first place she was paid \$5 a week, but before she was with the firm a year she was earning \$15. although she was only sixteen years old. She remained in this position for three years and three months only leaving when the firm went out of business. After a week she secured a position as an examiner in a cloak and suit house this time at \$10 a week and is still holding that position. Her first employer said "I have never had a better worker. She is never late and is always willing and can be depended upon. I am sorry that we are going out of business, but I know she will secure a position at once."

Unfortunately Florence is not very happy in her home life. There are nine in the family and they have five rooms in an old-law tenement on Avenue B. The father and two sisters are working so there is a sufficient income to keep the little home, but there is little harmony in their life. The mother and father are not happy together and the children are jealous of each other and quarrel continually. The rooms are most unattractive and are not kept clean. Florence is rarely home in the evening. She has a great many friends and is able to save enough money to spend on good times with them. She comes home in time for dinner and leaves immediately afterwards and does not return again until eleven or after at night. She goes to the moving picture houses and to a number of dance halls in the vicinity but she is careful to choose the better class of both of these. She is also a member of a settlement house club and attends the meetings and the social evenings regularly. Occasionally she "goes up-town for a show with a crowd." Just at present she is "keeping company" and expects to be married in a few months. "I can hardly wait until I have a home of my own, when I can have nice things. I have never known what it was to have pretty things around me or to have people peaceful and happy.

We are going to have a little tenement in the Bronx and I am going to have once in my life a real home."

The L's are orthodox Jews and on Friday nights Florence or the other children are not allowed to leave the house. For a long time, the father made very serious objections to Florence working Saturdays, but when he discovered that she would not be able to earn very much money or to hold any position he withdrew his refusal. The Friday gathering is about the only time that the family meet together.

Luckily, Florence is very ambitious. She has continued studying in the night schools and seizes every opportunity in her place of work to learn more and to advance herself. It is probable that in her new life, conditions will be far superior to those from which she came.

Katie P.

According to Katie's mother "that child has been in mischief ever since she was born". This is still true of Katie and promises to be always true. The girl is a bright happy-go-lucky and careless. She has no respect for any law or authority and absolutely refuses to feel any responsibilities resting upon her. Like so many girls of this type, she is popular with her friends but unfortunately she is not wise in the choice of company and is in constant danger of getting into serious trouble.

Katie was born in Italy sixteen years ago and came to this country when a small child with her father and mother. She has now four younger sisters all under working age and one baby brother. The father works in a little restaurant, but is unable to make enough money to keep a comfortable home, for his family. Therefore just as soon as Katie was fourteen years old, although she was only in the seventh grade she was taken from school and sent

to work. Her first position was in a dress house as a learner at \$4. a week. She remained in this position for three months and gave as her reason for leaving the fact that the work was slow. Unfortunately, it was discovered that she had entirely too good times with the other girls working with her and that she was insubordinate and was laid off. She then drifted into another dress house earning this time \$6. She remained for a month, then had a quarrel with the forelady and was sent away. For three months, she drifted from place to place staying a few days in one place or a week in another and not "making good" anywhere. When she decided that she was tired of sewing and would try something else. She secured a position in an envelope factory as a clerical worker, but she said "I just got tired of doing the same thing all the time. I didn't see the use of it and I thought I would like to try to be a saleslady. You can see so much going on there". In pursuit then of this excitement, she found a position as a salesgirl in a small department store on Sixth Avenue. She remained there exactly one week. The manager said it was impossible to keep her because she talked all of the time with the other girls and paid little attention to the customers unless by any chance it was a man who was buying. Katie was quite disgusted with life as a salesgirl and decided that after all her own trade was best. She drifted back into a dress house as a finisher. Luckily, she was placed at piece work and this seemed to have a real interest for the girl. She found a reason for paying attention to her work and when at the end of a week or two she found she could make \$9 she was elated. She has held that position for over six months, although occasionally the forelady has to interfere when the quarrels between Katie and her fellow workers become too violent.

When working hours are over, Katie is always in trouble. In the first place, she cannot get along with her father, who holds strictly to the

Italian ideas that girls should stay at home. The girl openly defies him and will walk out of the house and down to the street, leaving him protesting at the head of the stairs. Sometimes she is allowed to go undisturbed and at other times, the father beats her and makes her stay in. There is no regularity in the policy pursued so Katie always "takes a chance to get away". Once on the streets, she meets a crowd of friends many of them boys who take her to the moving picture houses or to dance halls, for a little time she will forget the life which she openly hates. Unfortunately, this crowd with which she goes is a lawless one. Many of the other girls have gotten into trouble and by joining them, Katie is in great moral danger.

Her home life is not very attractive. The four rooms are dirty and untidy. The children are quarrellsome. The mother is a sickly tired woman who seems unable to cope with the situation and the father either very ugly or strangely indifferent to the needs of his family. There is desperate poverty and little happiness in this life. Unless, Katie can be taken away from it and placed in surroundings where she will learn that she must recognize authority and yet where there is some brightness there is grave danger that she will not only fail in her work, but will gradually drift into an immoral life.

Mollie F.

Mollie lives with her father and three sisters in four small rooms over a Hungarian restaurant on East Fourth Street. The father runs this restaurant and the girls spend a great deal of their time there, either helping him or fooling with the men who congregate nightly. The father is a big rough man who allows his daughters to live their lives very much as they please and who is not at all concerned when the girls meet the wrong kind of men in his restaurant.

The house is dark and dirty and the girls are too busy having a good time to take proper care of the home? Their evenings they spend in the moving picture houses. There are three on the same block with them. On Saturdays they go to dances in the near-by halls and there is little time left to keep the home attractive.

Mollie was born in Russia eighteen years ago, but came to this country when she was quite young. She graduated from public school and went one year to High school, then left to take a position as an operator starting at \$5 a week. She held this position for four months when she changed to a position paying \$6 and later \$8. She has held this same place for two years and a half. Although she does very good work, she very much dislikes it and complains bitterly that she has to work so hard every day. "Some girls have so easy jobs and sit around and loaf all the day, but I have to work every minute. I wish I could have been a clerical worker, but I just happened to get into this and I suppose I will keep right on doing it. The girl next me got married last week and so she escaped. That's what I am going to do some day".

The girl is beginning to go with a very rough crowd of boys and girls. She is popular with them because of her attractive personal appearance and her willingness to have a good time. She has no use for a girl who is "too fussy about her friends. I can take care of myself and I want a good time and there is no other way a girl can get it on \$8 a week unless she accepts things from men. I guess if anyone wants to take me to a dance he won't have to ask me twice. No. I don't do anything at all about the housekeeping. My sister is supposed to do that but she is keeping company and is no good at all. We get along alright though, because we eat down stairs with father and there is nothing to do in the house, except to spread up the beds."

It can easily be seen there is no home life in this family. Each member goes his or her independent way. The home is merely the shelter for the night. There is a good deal of jealousy between the sisters. They are imbued with the same mad desire for excitement and each one envies the other a good time. It is strange that Mollie's work record had not been more varied, since she is so absorbed in a life so entirely apart from her work. As yet, however, she seems to be able to attend to her daily work and to hold the position which she has.

Augusta K.

Augusta is a bright attractive little seventeen year old Jewish girl who lives with her parents in a very comfortable home on East Eight-first Street. While the family have always had to save and to be economical in their way of living and while the children have not been able to have all the education they desired, there still has been no great poverty until this winter. Augusta's father is a tailor and when working full time makes about \$2. a day. There are two older sisters both working and earning about \$8 a week. The two little brothers are still in school.

Mrs. K. is an excellent housekeeper. The five little rooms for which they pay \$10 a month rent are kept immaculately clean. Besides this, Mrs. K. is a very good cook and apparently uses good judgment in the selection of the food for the family. "Mother always has nice dinners for us when we come home. I never saw anyone like her, Even if she only has a few cents to buy with, she manages to get us good food and to have it served nice. She has had a hard time this winter but she never seems to complain." The kitchen is the meeting place for the family. At nights, after the evening meal, the family draw up around this table, now covered with a bright cloth, while the children do their lessons and the older ones talk over the events of the day. Often the neighbors drop in for it seems to be a general feeling that this is a pleasant place to spend an evening.

At the age of fourteen, Augusta graduated from the public school, with a good record and intended to enter evening school. However, she was not well at the time and by the doctors orders was kept at home. When she was again ready to take up her work, it was necessary, owing to the failure of

the father in business, for the girl to go directly to work. She secured a position as an operator at \$5 a week and remained in this position for four months, when she was laid off because it was the end of the season and business was slow. She almost immediately secured a position as operator in a neckwear firm on East Thirteenth Street. Here she did piece work and often earned from \$9 to \$10 a week. She was quick and accurate in her work and enjoyed it. At the end of three months business was again slow and she had to seek another position. This time as a hand sewer on trimmings. In this position she earned \$6 a week and has been there for eight months.

Although Augusta was very much disappointed at not being able to continue her studies, she did not allow the fact to kill all her ambition. Instead she enrolled in an evening school, where she took an academic course for a year and a half. She also attended many public lectures in the public schools and at the Natural History Museum. She joined a girls' club and entered all the classes offered there. "I intend to learn all I can and some day be making more money. I am sorry that I had to leave school, but I am glad I can help the family".

When Augusta comes home on Saturday nights, she gives to her mother \$4.50 from her pay envelope. As she has to pay sixty cents a week for carfare and the same amount for lunches, it leaves very little out of the \$6 for her to spend. She has not bought any clothing, with the exception of a pair of shoes, for a year and a half now, and is beginning to look shabby. However, her clothing is always clean and mended and in good taste. When it is necessary to buy any special article like a coat or a suit, her mother gives her what she can spare and her two older sisters when possible contribute something toward it. When she was earning \$9 or

\$10 a week she found it possible to save a little each week. She regrets the fact that she is now unable to save, more than anything else. "I used to feel so safe when I knew that I had a little saved. Now I am just afraid all the time for fear I will lose my position."

The girl goes out very little in the evenings, except to classes or school. However, on Saturday nights, she takes the two younger brothers when there are any nickles to spare to a near-by moving picture theatre and they have a good time together. Both the children are devoted to Augusta. Mrs. K. says "They go to her and do for her what they wouldn't do for me. She has a way with them." Very occasionally Augusta is invited out to a party. These are great occasions for the family. An evening dress, which is really owned by the older sister, is loaned to the girl and the family seem to rejoice in her good time. At these parties, Augusta is very popular owing to her attractive appearance and her unusually sweet manner.

With this pleasing personality and her ambition, it seems as though she should make a success of her life.

Theresa D.

Therese is a picturesquely untidy Italian girl. She lives with her parents and seven brothers and sisters in four rooms on East Twenty-fourth Street. Theresia was born eighteen years ago in a little town in Southern Italy, but has been in this country ever since she was a small child.

The father is a fine looking sturdy Italian man, who is in every sense the head of the family and rules with a rod of iron. He is extremely interested in and careful of his children, especially his daughters whom he guards jealously. He has read in the newspapers of the dangers to which young working girls are exposed. "I read in the papers its no safe

place for girls on streets at night and my Tessie must stay at home. Your club may be alright, but she mustn't go out after eight o'clock. Yes. You're a safe lady, I'm sure, but when she's home I'm sure of her, and home she stays. With the boys it's different. Why should she need to go out. She has a good time at home. Needs young people? There are many in this house. Yes, she can go Sunday afternoon, if you're sure it's good club."

The mother is a quiet rather browbeaten woman who does not even yet speak English. She lives almost entirely at home and when out only visits among her Italian neighbors. She knows little of American customs and ideals and leads her life according to the dictates of her husband. She seems quite content, but is indolent and not a good housekeeper. However, she is good and kind to the children and watchful of their needs. She is economical and a good cook and although home is neither clean nor attractive.

The children are all younger than Theresa, the baby being two years old and the others are about two years apart. They are a jolly happy little crowd always dirty and noisy and ragged but evidently normal and healthy. They receive little attention while young and are allowed to run quite wild in the streets. Only as they begin to approach maturity does the vigilant guarding begin. The girls fret under this new restraint but they stand in awe of their father and there is seldom open rebellion.

The family live in crowded quarters, having only four small rooms for which they pay \$14. These rooms have only necessary furniture and when they sit down to the table, they resemble the famous Ruggles family. While the baby does not have to resort to the coal hod, still the seat which he occupies bears small resemblance to a chair. It is to all appearances the remnant of a stool which once graced the office of a store. Still in spite of apparent poverty, there is at dinner time, a white cloth on the table and all the

family sit down at the same time. The dinner usually consists of a good soup or stew with plenty of Italian bread, but no butter. The members of the family are more than hospitable and will freely share the meal with a guest. In fact, it is extremely difficult for the visitor to escape from this house without partaking of food.

Of course, there are beds in all the rooms and the usual lack of privacy. These beds remain unmade all day with the exception of the one in the kitchen which is folded back against the wall. The children do not seem to belong to any one place at night, but tumble into any bed where there is space. This is not so hard on the little ones, but is far from pleasant for the older girls.

Theresa left the public school in the seventh grade and went to a trade school where she took up dressmaking. She was placed directly from the school with a private dressmaker as a learner at \$4 a week. She has been at that same place for a year and a half, doing good work and she has been advanced to \$5.50. As she is a bright girl, and has had good trade training, it is probable that her record will prove very satisfactory and that she will standily although slowly advance.

Like all good Italian daughters, Theresa hands her pay envelope unopened to her father each Saturday night. She is given each morning ten cents for carfare and takes her lunch from home with her. Occasionally she is allowed five cents for the "Movies" but only when she is accompanied by an older person. Sometimes on Saturday afternoons, the family go together to some near-by theatre to enjoy the pictures. These excursions have been few and far between this winter with conditions so bad.

Theresa is a good Catholic, goes to Church regularly and to confession frequently. She is bright and attractive with dark hair and eyes and the

olive skin common to the Southern Italian. She has a sunny disposition and in spite of a certain fly-a-way irresponsibility, is capable of good and faithful work. She should be among the moderately successful working girls.

Mamie P.

The members of Mamie's family are all in delicate health. There seems to be here a bad inheritance and no proper environment to counteract this. The father died of consumption when the girl was ten years old. Two other sisters developed the disease and one died of it at the age of seventeen. The other is now an inmate at a hospital for consumptives. The mother has been ill for some years, suffering from eczema and some serious kidney trouble. The other children are apparently anemic and lose a great deal of time either at work or at school because of poor health.

When Mamie was a little girl she was placed in an orphan asylum and remained there until she was twelve years old. She then went to public school and left in the sixth grade at the age of fourteen, in order to go to work. For a year she only held temporary positions. All the employers whom she visited said she was entirely too young. All together in that whole year, she did not work more than four and a half months. These positions were in different waist houses as examiner or finisher or packer. In none of these places did she secure more than \$4. Then followed a period of three months with no work at all. When she did finally find a position it was as a finisher on waists at \$5 a week. She remained in this position for six months, when business was again slow. Fortunately she almost immediately secured another position in a waist house on Broadway.

The home life of the family is happy although they are very much

oppressed by poverty. The living room is clean and neat. The carpetless floors and the shabby chairs show signs of poverty and there is very little that is attractive in the home. The two bedrooms are small and dark. They contain besides a bed only one chair, and one little oilcloth covered table and a dingy mirror. The walls of the rooms are painted a greyish white. The children give all they earn to the mother. She gives them money for lunches and when she has it money for clothing. For the last year she has been able to help them very very little. Mamie does not own a single dress or waist that is really fit to be worn. The Older sister who is a clerical worker is the most ambitious member of the family and does all in her power to urge the younger children to keep up to the high standards which she herself observes.

Mamie is slip-shod, always late, always losing her property and seems to be the least concerned of the family. She is wholly influenced by those about her and is absolutely unreliable. Besides this she is in extremely delicate health. The mother thinks the girl has some great stomach trouble. However, as the girl eats very poor food and at very irregular hours, this may be the cause of the trouble.

Altogether, Mamie will not be a success in her work unless she can become more reliable and assume more responsibility.

Emma P.

Emma is an unusually attractive little German girl, who lives with her parents and three younger children on East Forty-third Street. The family occupy four rooms on the third floor back of a well-kept tenement house. The rooms are small, but they are light and an effort is made to make the home bright and attractive. There are bright pictures on the

walls of the living room, comfortable chairs, lace curtains at the windows and a gay carpet on the floor. The house is very much cluttered up, but it is not in any way dirty. There seems to be no striking signs of poverty.

Emma graduated from the public school and went to trade School for six months taking a course in dressmaking. She left and secured a position with a private dressmaker at \$4 a week. She has held this position for over a year, but has received no increase in wages. Emma is a little discouraged and is anxious, as so many of her friends are, to become a stenographer. She is attending a business college on Forty-second Street three nights a week and is finishing her second year. She wants to give up her trade entirely and it is difficult to make her see that there may be more future for her in dressmaking than in stenography.

The father is regularly employed as a driver of a motor truck and there seems to be no desperate need. Emma turns over all her money to her mother on Saturdays because as her mother says "I know better how to spend it than she". Emma does not object to this because she says her mother really spends more on her than she earns.

Emma is a very pretty and bright looking girl. She dresses in unusually good taste and is very careful about her personal appearance. She is extremely popular with the girls and boys in the neighborhood, especially with the latter, who according to her mother, "just live in the parlor". She causes very little trouble in the home, except occasionally when she wants to go out too many nights in the same week. Her parents approve of her friends and do not feel that the girl is in any danger of getting into trouble.

Emma attends a Presbyterian Church in the neighborhood and is very active in church work. She belongs to a church club and to two settlement

clubs. Her social duties absorb her attention to the exclusion of all other things and it is doubtful whether she has any future in her work, because of this. However, as she is "keeping company" this winter, and hopes to be married, perhaps this will not make a very great difference in her life.

Elsa M.

To live nineteen years in the same tenement is an unusual occurrence in New York. This is the case of the M. family. The M's live in a four room tenement of East Seventy-ninth Street and the rooms are light, clean and very attractive. The father is a carpenter who has always held very steady positions, until the past winter, when he could only secure odd jobs. However, as he had saved a little money, he was not distressed over the situation and as spring came on he was again working steadily. There is a sister aged thirteen in school and another sister who is learning to make jewelry.

Elsa who is fifteen years old graduated from public school at the age of fourteen, and entered a trade school. After completing the course of dressmaking, she secured a position as finisher with a private dressmaker earning at once \$6 and soon \$8 a week. She worked in this place for six months, when she lost her position because of slackness in the work and was unable to secure another. She went back to the trade school and asked to be admitted that she might learn more while she was waiting for business to improve. After six weeks of unemployment, she again secured a position at \$8, and is working there now.

Elsa is an unusually pretty girl. Her record at the trade school is unusually good both for faithfulness to her work and for actual efficiency.

While at school, she was very popular with the girls and entered into the social life with a great interest. She has spent her vacations for two years at the summer camp in connection with the school. Elsa longs to be a "real dressmaker"all by myself". I love to plan dresses and to imagine beautiful ladies wearing them. I know I am going to succeed. I wish I could study longer, but I suppose I am learning more by working than I could any other way".

Elsa's home life is very happy. There is a very wonderful companionship between the girl and her mother. In many ways they seem more like sisters. They go out together often in the evenings, to visit friends in the neighborhood, or "go to a show". Often the father and the younger children accompany them on these excursions and they have a very happy time together. There home is the meeting place for all of Elsa's friends both girls and boys. They love to come there and Mrs. M. encourages this. Often when the girl has company the mother will go to the kitchen and bring in some little luncheon to surprise the girls. The living room in which they entertain their guests is very attractive. There is a piano in one corner of the room, comfortable chairs, and a table covered with books and magazines. There seems to be an atmosphere of happiness and comfort and joy here which makes it possible for Elsa to develop along the lines which she has chosen. Her ambitions are encouraged and whenever it is necessary the family sacrifice for her. It seems probable that the girl has a bright future in her trade.

Mollie R.

Mollie is a happy-go-lucky Jewish girl who lives with her family on East Sixth Street. The father is janitor and so secures three rooms rent free. There are six children in the family. One, a married sister, lives

in the tenement above this family. Another is at the International College in Springfield, Mass. There are four children all under fourteen.

The family occupy rooms on the rear of the ground floor. The rooms are small and are not kept clean or neat. The floors are bare and the beds unmade and the dishes unwashed. However, in spite of this there is a decided attempt at beautifying the home according to their standards. The walls are papered in a bright green and are hung with colored portraits of the family. Photographs stare at you from each side of the kitchen stove, and the rooms seem to be sadly mixed. Articles properly belonging to a dining room for example a side-board, are found in the bedroom while the ice-chest has wandered away from the kitchen into the living room. Beds are of course in all the rooms as is necessary to accommodate so large a family. There is no possibility of any kind of privacy as the rooms open out from each other and are only closed off by thin curtains.

The father has a great deal of ambition for his children and is very proud because his oldest daughter married a man "that supports her good" and is especially fond of his little granddaughter. Both Lena and Mollie the oldest girls are ambitious and Lena has now partly satisfied her ambition by entering college. Mollie proudly displays to all visitors her diploma as a graduate of public school which is framed and hung over her sewing machine. The older children are planning to save money to give the little ones more education than they have had.

Mollie has received no education other than that of public school. She was in school for seven years and left at the age of sixteen in order to go to work. She secured a position in a waist house as hemstitcher where she started as a learner for \$4 a week. She seems to have done

well there but was laid off when the business became slack. She next held a position as a machine operator in another waist house and remained here for a year. She found the machine hard and as she says "the noise just drove me mad", and so gave it up of her own accord. After that she returned to her trade of hemstitching and was in one firm five months and then was laid off because of slow times. She was fortunate enough to secure a position immediately with the firm where she is now employed, earning between \$7 and \$8 a week.

The family life seems to be a very happy one. Each member of the family is interested in the affairs of the other members. They hold strictly to the customs of the orthodox Jews and at the time of this investigation were preparing to paint and paper the house and buy new dishes for the approaching holidays. It seems fortunate that this family keeps to this custom for to all appearances it is the only time the house is cleaned. The health of the family is good with the exception of the eleven year old girl, who while she is not sick is "always ailing". She seems to be an anemic. While there is little money to spare, the family are able to make both ends meet and have sufficient food and clothing.

For amusement Mollie spends a great deal of her time at the home of girl friends in the neighborhood. She belongs to a club at one of the settlements which she attends weekly. She doesn't seem to care much for moving pictures or dances but likes to read. Her reading however, is limited to the newspapers and especially to the stories in the "American". She spends a great deal of her time in making dresses for herself and her friends as she enjoys sewing and likes to have pretty things. She does not attend night school. "One bright one in the family is all we want".

If someone would take a personal interest in Mollie it might be possible to make her a more effective worker as her main drawback seems

to be a lack of order and system.

Ida L.

Conditions were not always bad for the L. family. The tired little mother remembers when "my man worked steady by pants", and the two girls can tell of the days when there were spare pennies for sodas or gum or candy and when on rare and wonderful occasions the family went together in a "show". They still cling to the luxury of a four room tenement for four people as they cannot seem to realize that hard times have come.

The trouble started when Mr. L. had a bad attack of rheumatism two winters ago. Since that time it has been almost impossible for him to secure regular employment and the family income has steadily diminished. The two girls were taken out of school and placed as operators in waist houses, but their small wages did not meet the needs. Conditions gradually grew worse and finally when fifteen year old Ida lost her position, actual starvation faced the family.

However, in spite of all the difficulties, the little tenement was kept clean and bright and cheerful. The bare floors were scrubbed until they shone, the furniture was always dusted, the beds were made early in the day and the poor meals were served on clean dishes. There was an atmosphere of home in the little rooms, and though the mother grew steadily sadder and wearier, there was always a real welcome for her husband and daughters when they returned from work or the vain search for work.

Ida was born in Russia fifteen years ago, but came to the United States when a small child. She attended the public school leaving at the age of fourteen while still in the seventh grade to go to work. She secured a position in a kimona factory as operator where she remained six

months receiving \$6 a week. She was laid off because of hard times. She then drifted from one temporary position to another. At last she secured a position in a waist house at \$5 a week where she is working at the present time.

Ida is an attractive and unusually thoughtful girl. She is devoted to her family and longs to earn money enough to keep her mother from worrying. "If I could only see mother laugh the way she used to. She never was so tired before, but she worries so over my father's sickness and she doesn't eat enough to keep well. If I could only earn more. I'm afraid I never will. I'm getting less now than when I started. Yes. I'd like to go to trade school, but I've got to work".

Ida has little amusement. There is no money for the "movies" and the evenings are for the most part spent at home. Ida belongs to a girls' club and attends the meetings regularly twice a month. She is rather quiet and shy when with the girls but is rapidly growing popular, mainly because of her kindhearted interest in the affairs of other people. There is good reason to believe that with opportunities for trade education and with relief from the haunting fear of poverty, Ida might become an efficient and happy worker.

Pauline B.

Pauline, Jewish, aged twenty-one, living on East Ninth Street has been for five years supporting herself as a tucker on waists. She is the oldest of six children, only one other being of working age. She was born in New York of Russian parents and went to public school. When she was within a few months of graduating, she reached her fourteenth birthday and was immediately taken out and placed in a position in order to add to the meagre family income. However, Pauline was ambitious and for a year attended the Hester Street Evening School, where she studied commer-

cial subjects.

Pauline's first position was with a waist company where she remained for two and a half years and received very good references. Although she started at \$4 a week she soon earned \$6.50. At the end of that time, business became slow and she was laid off, although she was taken back twice afterwards when business improved. She went to another waist house where she remained a year earning \$7. and only left because work was slack. Since then she has held five temporary positions ranging from three to eight months, but seems to be in no way responsible for having lost these positions, as in one case the firm failed and in all the others, she was laid off during the slow seasons. The last three positions she held she did piece work and then earned from \$10 to \$14 a week and one week earned \$18. This winter she has been without work and as her sister lost her position, the family has been in desperate straits.

Pauline's father died several years ago and her mother married again. The step-father is a painter by trade, but has been out of work for three months. At the beginning of the winter the family had \$50 in the bank, but this was soon expended for necessities and the family soon reached the point where they were either forced to accept charity or to starve. The mother however, so strongly resented the idea of accepting charity that they went for weeks with insufficient food and clothing. About that time Pauline became a member of a girls club and the leader took great interest in the girl. She found out the conditions under which the girl was living and placed her at relief sewing in the Manhattan Trade School where she assisted in the sewing department, and received \$5 a week. She remained there for over six weeks and was placed directly from the school to a position where she is now earning \$8 a week.

The family occupy five rooms for which they pay \$1' a month. Although they are somewhat crowded, the home is always neat and clean. Mrs. B. seems to be a very thrifty woman and a wise planner. She has worried a great deal this winter because they have been forced to change their mode of living, and to borrow money from friends to pay their rent, and she has pawned what few articles of furniture and clothing she could spare. For this reason the home is at the present time bare and unattractive, but the children have before them a steady lesson of thrift and independence which is worth more to them than pleasant surroundings.

Besides Pauline and her sister, there are two boys and two girls. These children are all in the public school and with the exception of one boy, who is rather delicate, they seem to be healthy normal children. There is little real home life, except on Friday nights, when the family dine together and hold to many of the customs of the orthodox Jews.

Pauline is very fond of the "movies" and when working spends a good deal of her extra money for amusement. She also goes regularly to Saturday night dances. However, there is no time when she does not hand over \$5 to the family when paid on Saturday nights and very often when she earned more, she gave a larger proportion to her mother. Unlike many mothers, Mrs. B. allowed her daughter to buy her own clothing out of the money which she saved, and the girl has an independence which she appreciates and does not abuse.

Rose B.

Rose aged eighteen, left public school in the seventh grade when fifteen years old and went to work as an operator in an embroidery house

where she remained one year and earned \$8. Since then she has held two positions one of four months and one of three months as a hemstitcher on waists, receiving \$9 a week. This winter, she has been out of work due to the general slackness of her trade, and she has just this month secured a position at \$6 a week also as a hemstitcher.

While Rose has come from the same home and has had the same influences she is less responsible than Pauline. She seems to be more spoiled and feels that a great deal should be done for her. She absolutely refused to take a temporary position at \$5 a week although the family was in desperate need, because as she says "I would be ashamed to let anyone know what I was getting". She gives her mother a great deal of anxiety. She is rather gay and stays out late at night with boys. However, it seems to be nothing more serious than the case of a girl being young and anxious for a good time.

Clara B.

Happy and cheerful surroundings lend brightness to the poorest of homes. This is the condition in the home of Clara, a bright little French girl, who lives with her mother on East Twenty-fifth Street. Clara was born in Boston seventeen years ago, and has only been in New York for three winters. She went to a public school in Boston and left in the sixth grade at the age of thirteen and has received no school training since.

Immediately upon leaving school Clara began to work although she has not yet reached the age of fourteen. She secured a position with a private dressmaker on Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, to learn hand sewing on dresses. As her mother was a dressmaker she had learned to use the needle and was able to start at \$6 a week, and was soon raised to \$7. However, the

business failed. After two months she secured a position with another dress-maker where she did hand sewing for \$6. She was forced to leave this place because of trouble in her own home which made the family move to New York.

About this time Mr. B. deserted the family leaving the mother and one brother to support the family of seven. They took a little tenement of four rooms for which they pay \$14. The mother soon got work dressmaking, going out by the day for which she received \$3. This is the only income in the family as Clara now goes out with her mother as a helper. The family consists of a boy twenty-three, who is an artist and who does not live at home. When working he contributes to the family income, but at the present time is out of work, and four younger children, who go to the public school in the neighborhood. They are all good Catholics and attend church regularly.

The home life of this family is quite ideal. The mother is a very refined woman and speaks English correctly though with a slight accent. She is very interested in her children and regrets that her work makes it impossible for her to give them more attention. She is quite cheerful and uncomplaining, although most of this winter she has been unable to earn more than \$8 a week. She seems to be especially fond of Clara who has assumed a great deal of responsibility since the father deserted them and is now her mother's "right hand woman". The house is immaculate and although plainly furnished shows evidence of good taste. No matter how early in the day, you may call, you will find the beds made, the dishes washed and the little house clean and ready for the day's work. The living-room is plain but homelike. There is a table with a lamp about which the children study their lessons. There are clean white curtains at the windows and a small rug on the well scrubbed floor. There are family portraits on the walls and in one corner a sewing machine and work table belonging to

the mother. The children are healthy and normal and seem more quiet and refined than those of the neighbors. It would seem as though the family had known the time when they had had greater opportunities and had not been forced to live under such crowded conditions.

Clara is a slight, pretty dark-haired girl with a rather shy but sweet manner. She is devoted to her mother and seems to appreciate to the full the sacrifice her mother is constantly making to keep the home happy and comfortable. She is very fond of her younger brothers and seems to take her mother's place in the care of them. She rarely goes out with other girls, largely due to the fact that there are few girls living in the neighborhood that she would find congenial, as she is very fond of reading, she is constantly bringing home books from the public library. Recently Clara joined a club of girls which meets a few blocks from her home and she is greatly anticipating the companionship of girls her own age. Her mother says "Clara never goes to the movies unless she takes the little ones with her. She is a good girl and I don't know how I should get along without her".

When the B's first came to New York it seems wise to place Clara in a position, but Mrs. B. found that she could receive more customers and earn more money if she could have Clara with her. Also the only positions open to the girl were those in waist or dress houses and it seemed wiser for her to continue private dressmaking. At the present time, however, effort is being made to place Clara with a dressmaker as she shows skill and because of her attractive personality should advance and do good work in her profession. She dislikes very much to stop working with her mother, but is eager to do anything that will be a help to her to the family.

Sarah S.

Sarah a nineteen year old Jewish girl lives on Christopher Street, Brooklyn. The family consists of her mother and father, one sister and two brothers all under working age. The father is a tailor by trade, but has been out of work the greater part of the winter, seldom earning more than \$2 a week. This has made Sarah the main support of the family.

Sarah is an unusually serious responsible girl. Evidently the fact that for so many years she has been the main factor in providing for the shelter and food of the family has made her old for her years. She seems to have lost a great deal of her capacity for enjoyment. She is devoted to each member of the family and the home seems to be a happy one, in spite of difficulties.

At the age of sixteen, Sarah left public school in the sixth grade to go to work. She took a position as an operator in a dress house at \$3 a week and remained in that position for six months. When the work became slack, she was laid off for a month. She secured another position as a hand sewer at \$4.50 where she remained for nine months. She went to another dress house as an operator earning \$7 and was there for eight months, when work became slack and she was laid off.

Then followed several months of short temporary positions when the income of the family was greatly diminished. Unlike so many girls, Sarah was willing to take any kind of work, even the much despised housework, if she could earn enough money to help the family. Fortunately her father secured some work and was able to meet the rent, but the burden of money for food and clothing still rested upon Sarah. Finally, unable to secure work in her own trade, she took a position at the Hebrew Infant Asylum as a nurse where she received \$8 a month. She had that money

entirely clear as her board and room was given to her, and she sent the entire amount home.

The family occupy three rooms for which they pay \$12. a month. These rooms are always clean and in order and there is an attempt to make them home-like and attractive. There seems to be a good deal of real home life. The family always make a point of eating together and after the dishes have been washed and the rooms cleaned up, they often gather around the table in the front room and read and talk and spend the evening quietly together. The children are bright and healthy and are attending the public school. Mrs. B. is very fond of Sarah and seems to appreciate the real fineness of the girl. She understands the sacrifice Sarah has made ever since she was of age and says "I know her brothers and sisters will make it up to her sometime. If it wasn't for her, I don't know what we would have done this winter.

Sarah with all her faithfulness is not a brilliant girl. Her education has been very meagre and she has had no supplementary training, except a course in dressmaking in one of the evening schools. Her life seems to have been so shadowed by anxiety and care that all personal ambition seems to have been killed. She is the type of a girl who will always do faithful work, but will do very little that is original. She can take orders and obey them faithfully and when once she is shown how to do work, can be relied upon to carry it out, but she is unable to be left very much upon her own resources.

Sarah H.

Sarah, nineteen, Jewish lives on East Sixth Street in four rooms for which the rent is \$9 a month. The family consists of mother, three girls and one boy. The father died about two years ago after a long illness

which consumed all the savings of years. The mother speaks no English although she has been in this country for ten years. She spends her time in the home cooking, and making clothes for the children. The two girls of whom Sarah is the youngest are all in dress houses, earning from \$6 to \$8 a week. The boy aged twenty-two is a bookkeeper and receives \$8 a week.

The rooms are kept clean and neat and there are many signs of comfort. In the living room there is a carpet on the floor, numerous portraits on the wall, a table covered with books and entirely too many chairs which look as though they had belonged to a dining room set in some more prosperous home. In one bedroom there are three beds similar to those which they probably used in the old country and not unlike our sleeping car berths. The three girls occupy this room. The kitchen is the room most commonly used by the family and is as neat as the rest of the house. The stove is well blacked, the oilcloth on the floor clean and whole and every sign of comfort present.

Sarah graduated from public school at the age of sixteen. She secured a position in a waist house as a finisher and examiner at \$5 a week and remained with them for a year, when she was laid off because of poor business conditions. She was out of work for two months and then secured a position as examiner on waists at \$6 which she has held for a year. Recently she received a raise of fifty cents. She is very sensitive about her wages as she feels that it is not as much as a girl should earn. Although her sisters both attend night school, Sarah does not. She gives her reason for this the fact that she is "too tired at night. There doesn't seem to be anything left of me when I get home". She spends most of her evenings in the house and says that often she goes to bed long before her sisters

are back from school.

Sarah belongs to a club which she attends each week. Here she has made friends among Jewish girls her own age. About once a week she goes to moving pictures, and occasionally on Saturday nights to dances, but she says "she knows no boys". Last summer she spent three weeks at a camp and that seems to be the most important event she can remember. She had never been to the real country before and admits that she was at first disappointed because it was "so slow" but by the time her vacation was over she could hardly bear to leave. She is saving her money to go again this coming summer.

Celia H.

Celia, aged twenty, is quite different from her sister Sarah. She is a much stronger healthier girl, more ambitious in her work and at the same time less contented with her home surroundings, and more anxious for gayety and good times. She graduated from public school at the age of sixteen and has held three positions in waist houses as an operator. She remained in two of them a year and in the third six months. She started at \$5 a week and is now receiving \$7.

Upon leaving public school she entered evening school and was taking a commercial course. She hoped to be a stenographer but discovered that there was little chance for so many were studying. She is now taking up dressmaking, more for experience in making her own clothes than for a trade.

Unlike Sarah, Celia spends most of her evenings away from home, when not at school. she goes out with the boys and girls of the neighborhood to moving picture houses or on Saturday nights to dances. She has a less happy disposition than her sister and is continually quarreling with her

However, she is a good girl and has never caused any serious trouble and is steady and faithful in her work. Both of these girls seems to be close to the average in their experience and will probably remain at about this level all their lives.

Hannah G.

Hannah comes from a good home and is freer than many of her friends from financial worry. The family occupy three small rooms in a tenement on East Sixth Street. The house is in good repair and the halls well lighted. On entering the tenement one steps into a living room attractively furnished and comfortable. There is a bright green carpet on the floor, coarse, but clean lace on the windows, a marble topped table covered with books, several easy chairs, and a couch with green cushions. Leading from this room is the kitchen, which might well find its place in a model apartment. It is ~~scrupulously~~ clean. The walls are painted white; the shining kitchen utensils hang upon the walls and the faucets are as bright as polish can make them. The only thing unusual in the room is the folding bed in the corner which is used at night by Hannah. There is besides this a small inner bedroom, also comfortably furnished and neat and clean.

The family consists of father, mother, and one brother. The father is very old and unable to work. He is an orthodox Jew and very rigid in adhering to the customs of his people. The mother only speaks Yiddish. She is a good housekeeper as her home testifies. There is one brother. He is earning \$15 a week and contributes generously to the family income. Hannah was born in Russia but came to the United States seven years ago. She was very ambitious and took a course at one of the business colleges in stenography, but upon graduating, found it was almost impossible to secure steady work owing to the fact that there were so many other clerical workers/

Hannah gave up her special work and went into a waist house as finisher. She has kept this same position for two years, starting at \$4 a week and now earning \$8.

Out of her weekly wages, Hanna gives \$5 to the family. She spends five cents carefare daily, walking home from work at night. She spends about 10 or 15 cents for her lunch. As she makes her own clothing, the expense for dress is not great. "Its shoes that make all the trouble. If only one could learn how to make them we would be saved so much.

Hannah belongs to a girls' club and us a very popular member. This is due to several causes. In addition to this she is very ambitious and quick and bright. What is parhaps her greatest attraction is a bubbling sense of humor. She finds a bright side in thr most serious situation, and is unfailingly cheerful.

In spite of her happy disposition, Hannah is not contentt, for she realizes that she must advance in her work, and she longs for a positio that will yield more money. She at present attends a high school and is taking a course in designing for she is anxious to get ahead in the dressmaking trade.

It would seem as if she should be successful for with a good home enviroment and a happy dispositionm and real ambition she should succeed in her trade.

S
Sadie Z.

Sadie's father keeps a leather store on East Thirty-fourth Street and the family live in three rooms at the rear of this store. The mother died about two years ago and the older sister, a girl of twenty-one, keeps house for the father,, and the three younger sisters, who are still in scho school. When she is not busy in the home, she helps in the store attend- ing to customers and keeping th books. She is a very superior girl and

very much interested in her family.

The rooms in the rear of the store are bright and cheerful. They open out into a little yard and each room is light and airy. The kitchen is the general living room for the family. There is a table covered with a bright red cloth in one corner of this room, and around this the girls gather at night, the children with their lessons, and the other ones with the sewing or reading. While they are rather crowded for room, the girls do not mind for the father sleeps on a cot in the back of the store and so leaves the two bedrooms for them.

Sadie was born in Russia nineteen years ago, but has been in this country since she was a little child. She graduated from the public school and took a short course in a trade school in dressmaking. She left, however, before she had completed the course in order to go to work. There was no great need of this but she was eager to earn money of her own. She secured a position with a private dressmaker where she started as a learner at \$4 a week. She was soon increased to \$6 and later \$7. She remained in this position for two years and left in order to secure more money. She went to work in another dressmaking house, starting at \$8 and has been there for a year and a half and is now earning \$10 a week.

Sadie gives \$5 of her weekly wages toward the support of the family. The remaining \$5 she is free to spend as she wishes. She is able to walk to her place of work so saves carfare, and she spends about fifteen cents a day for lunch. Most of her money she spends on clothing as she is very fond of pretty things. She has a great deal of common sense when it comes to the choosing of materials which is largely due to her experience in good dressmaking establishment. She will save money each week until she has enough to buy the kind of a suit she wants. She never buys on the installment plan. "I don't see any fun in having to pay for a suit when it is all worn out. I like to know it is paid for before I put it on.

It is not very hard if you plan. I know a place where materials are cheap and I know a good tailor who can make my suits for me. My waists and dresses I make myself. Often the woman for whom I work gives me pieces of trimming and this helps. I trim my own hats too, so I can have all I need and it costs so little."

Sarah and her sisters have a great many friends living in the neighborhood and spend many of their evenings away from home. Often there is a party in the theatre or to a dance and Sarah has many friends among the boys who take her out, and "give me a good time". For two years now she has been "keeping company with a young man" and expects to be married in a short time.

If you call to see her she will take you into the little room she shares with her sister and show you piles of dainty underwear which she has been making and very beautiful waists which she has finished. She will also show you towels and sheets that have been hemmed and which are ready for the new home. She is very happy in the prospect of having a home of her own, and has taken this past winter, courses in domestic science in order that she may more intelligently plan her meals and keep her house. She wishes that she could keep her position after her marriage because she likes the work, but she also feels that what she has learned will help her almost as much in her new life as it has in the old. She is trying to influence her younger sisters to take up dressmaking because "it is nice work and I like it and there is a chance of making something of yourself in it, that is if you have had any training in the beginning and have any ambition. You can make fun of it too, if you get a boss who will let you plan yourself. It is not monotonous like the work most girls have."

Frieda R.

Frieda has a greater opportunity for a normal home life and enjoyment and entertainment of her friends than most of the girls in her neighborhood. She lives with her mother and two brothers in a four room tenement in the Bronx. The parlor is attractively furnished with a bright carpet a small polished center table with a glass vase containing artificial flowers, comfortable chairs and best of all a piano with plenty of sheet music.

Yet Frieda is not happy or content. She complains of her position, her wages, and her lack of opportunity. She wants to be something better and doesn't know what. She is ambitious enough and has the tenacity of purpose to study shorthand by herself every day. Up and down-town, standing or sitting in the cars, she studies and every evening at home, she does the written work in connection with the exercises. She says she is not able to go to night school. "I just wouldn't get enough sleep and scarcely enough time to eat my supper, if I went to night school". She says she does not care for moving picture shows and has only one friend whom she occasionally goes to a dance with at the recreation center in the neighborhood of her home, but she claims that she does not care for these dances. She belonged to one club of girls, but found it "too serious".

Frieda's father is at the present time in Morris town, N.J. trying to establish a lunch room. He has always been a wanderer, changing his positions very frequently and he has not yet "made good". He does nothing to contribute to the support of the family. There are two younger brothers in the grammar school, so the real burden comes upon Frieda. Frieda graduated from public school at the age of fifteen and went to work as a dress model at \$4.50 a week. She only remained in this position for three weeks and left

because "I didn't like it". After that, she secured a position as an examiner on children's dresses at \$5.50 a week. She remained here for seven months and left to go into the sample room of ladies waists with a firm on lower Fifth Avenue at \$4.50 a week. This is all she is earning at the present time. She doesn't enjoy the work, but realizes the necessity of bringing home that amount of money. When Frieda brings her money home on Saturday nights, she gives it all to her mother, and receives sixty cents a week for carfare. She takes her lunch each day from home and buys coffee for two or three cents a cup, several times a week. It is quite evident that the girl is under-nourished. She has very little money for clothing, and is not only shabby but during the cold weather this winter was often insufficiently protected from the cold.

Frieda's mother does nothing to help the girl in the support of the home. She is a neat looking woman, but evidently distrustful of any visitors and lacking in cordiality. She resented the suggestion that they should move into a cheaper tenement. She says she is proud of her home and is anxious to keep it as it is.

Frieda is a nervous, sensitive and intelligent girl. She might with some help be trained for a more remunerative position. It is possible that with a position she enjoys and the recreation for which she longs, Frieda might make a success of her life.

Ida G.

Ida is an unusually pretty and attractive little seventeen year old Italian girl. Her father was an actor and he and her mother traveled from country to country with a vaudeville troupe. Ida was born in Italy on June 5th, 1897. All of her babyhood was spent in travel. Before she was

nine years old she had crossed the ocean fourteen times. She will tell you with sparkling eyes of the beautiful memories she has of different countries which she has seen with her parents. She can remember nothing in this period of her life that was not happy and beautiful and has no recollection of poverty or any unhappiness in her home.

For eight years, Ida was the only child; then another sister was born and at the present time there are four children, two girls and two boys all very much younger than Ida. About this time, Ida remembers that her father began to ill-treat her mother, and then instead of travelling with his family, he went off alone. Finally the family settled in New York but the father remained away most of the time only occasionally sending money back to the home. About three years ago, he entirely deserted the family. As Ida says "You see, we were too many to go with him, so what else was there for him to do".

Mrs. G. is a very superior woman. She is a good dressmaker and until recently has been able to keep the home comfortable and support her children. This last year, however, has been a very trying one, as she has had a serious illness, which made it impossible for her to work for a number of weeks and by the time she was well again there was little or no work for her to do. This Ida became the sole support of the little family.

Owing to the fact that so much of the girl's life was spent in travel, Ida received a meagre education. She was in public school about five years, leaving there at the age of twelve in the sixth grade. She was forced to leave at this time owing to the fact that she had a very serious illness and she never went back again. The first few years out of school were spent helping her mother sew. She did very good plain sewing and finishing and her mother was able because of the help to do a great deal more work. Therefore, it was not until this winter that iw

necessary for Ida to go out of the home. Early last fall the girl obtained a position in a neckwear house on Broadway at \$5 a week, but this position only lasted for a month. She then went into another neckwear house on Broadway for the same salary and found to her dismay that this position was also temporary. The mother was only just able to get around the house again. Ida was out of work and there was little food and no cheer for the children. People were interested in the girl and sent Christmas boxes which aided them over the hardest part of the winter. Just after the holiday season, Ida obtained a position in an embroidery house on Greene Street at \$5. a week and is still working there. Her record is good and her forelady speaks in the highest terms of the girl. The mother has secured work which she takes home at night and the family is able for the first time this winter to make both ends meet.

The house of the G's is on West Twenty-ninth Street. Although the house is poor and in bad repair, the three rooms in which the family live are quite immaculate and there is an attempt at making them attractive as well. The kitchen table upon which they eat is covered with clean white oilcloth. The stove is well blacked and the gay pictures on the wall give the little rooms a touch of prettiness. The children are always clean and their clothing in good repair and they have unusually charming manners. There seems to be a very real love in the home among all the members of the family and a continual effort is made by each one to make the most of the circumstances in which they have been placed and to look cheerfully forward to a better future. There seems to be no criticism of the father by either Ida or her mother. They all seem to feel that he was quite justified in not feeling that he could take the responsibility of so large a family. They are expecting that if he is successful he will come back, but will not consider it strange if he does

not.

Although Ida has had little or no trade training she should "make good" in any work which she undertakes, as she is bright and willing and ready to learn. She has not entered any evening school because she is far from strong and when she comes home from work at night she has a great many duties in the home in order to spare her mother. She is one of the typical "Little Mothers" of the poor, and deserves all the help that can be given her.

Amelia M.

Amelia is a most attractive little Italian girl who in spite of the fact that for many months she has had the entire support of the family upon her shoulders, is just as jolly happy-go-lucky girl. She was born in Italy sixteen years ago and came to this country when a baby with her father and mother. She now lives with them and with five younger brothers and sisters in four small dark rooms on East Thirty-fourth Street. Each year there has been unfortunately less and less money until at the present time the family is quite destitute and needs food and clothing and the primal necessities of life.

As long as Amelia can remember she has wanted to be a dressmaker. "I loved to sew when I was very little and I used to do all the mending. Once a lady in my church gave me some bright pieces of cloth for dolls dresses and I thought then that when I grew up I would learn to make dresses for real people. I wanted awfully to go to the trade school, but I just couldn't afford it so when I left school I felt I had to go right to work." Amelia graduated from public school at the age of fourteen and secured a position in a dress house as a trimmer at \$4 a week, and did excellent work. Finally she earned \$8. She remained with the firm for a year and three months when the firm failed and she was with-

out work. She was unable to secure a position with a good salary. Finally she went into an underwear house again as a trimmer for \$6 a week. She was laid off after seven months because work was slack. About this time she became a member of a girls' club and was referred to a philanthropic employment exchange where she secured work in a waist house at \$7 a week. She is still in this position.

The home of this family is kept as bright and clean as it is possible to make it. There are curtains at the windows and while they are coarse and ragged they are always clean. The kitchen which is the general living room for the family and a bedroom for the two boys at night, is scrubbed daily and is a pleasant meeting place for the members of the family. The mother speaks very little English and knows very little of life outside of her own home or the homes of her Italian neighbors. In many ways she is a superior woman and is very much interested in the children and seems especially fond of Amelia. The father is at home a great part of the time now. At one time he had a fruit stand but he was very unsuccessful and lost all the money that he made. He now and then finds work which brings \$2 a day but this is only on rare occasions. There is a brother who will be fourteen in a few days but he will be placed at work just as soon as he is taken from school. The family would not have been able to exist this winter if their rent had not been paid by a philanthropic organization.

There is very little amusement for Amelia. Her father guards her with all the strictness of the Italian parent and she is never allowed to go out in the evenings except when accompanied by her father or some older person. She belonged to a girls' club which met in the evenings, but her father would not allow her to go there unless the leader called for

and brough her back home. Finally she was transferred to a club meeting on Sunday afternoons as it was so difficult for her to get away in the evenings.

Unlike most working girls, she has very seldom been inside of a theatre and has bever been inside of a dance hall. "I just love to dance and when I was a little girl I used to dance with all the children when a hudry-gurdy played. I would like to do it still, only I am too big. I have never been even to a dance in the settlement, but I think, perhaps, father will let me go sometime if he can come with me and bring me back again."

Ruth B.

Ruth's father does very little to help in the support of the family life, in fact, it is largely due to his inability to hold positions or to succeed in whatever work he tries to do that serious difficulties have faced the family. Mr. B. was for four years a pedlar having a push-cart from which he sold candies. He was for a time successful in this work, but tow years ago, decided to open a candy store. For a year he struggled along trying to meet the rent and to make a success of his business. However, he failed, and has brought in no money to the family since. The family consisting of the father, mother, three girls of working age and one children in school, besides seventeen year old Ruth. The family live in a five room tenement in Brooklyn and pay \$24. a month for it. The income at the present time is about \$20 a week, besides the \$8 a month which is paid for the rent of one room from a man who has occupied it for over a year. The rooms are attractively furnished and clean. In the living room there is a large chest of drawers, which is rarely valuable. This has been in the family for a great many years. It is evident that

the B's have known a time when they were not pressed for money and when they could enjoy some of the good things of life.

Ruth graduated from the public school and almost immediately secured a position with a dressmaker as a draper at \$6 a week. She remained in this position for four months, when she became ill and was unable to continue work, but four months later she was again taken back into the firm this time at \$5 a week, where she is still working. According to her employer, her work is satisfactory, but shows little signs of special ability or any originality. According to him, Ruth lacks trade training and is not keen and brilliant enough to learn very quickly from her apprenticeship. She is however, faithful to her work and is very anxious to improve. At a business school she is studying English and business arithmetic and is very anxious to learn office work. She will not believe that there is any future in the dressmaking trade and feels that stenography is a great and worthy profession. It is partly because of her ambition to take up this line of work that she takes so little interest in her present occupation.

Ruth is a tall dark girl in unusually good health which shows itself in her coloring and in her strong athletic figure. She loves to be outdoors and takes long walks after work. She is very popular among the young people in the neighborhood and is invited out to a great many entertainments. According to her mother she is "too fond of the boys." She is never happy in the evening unless she can be out at some place of amusement, or entertaining her friends in her own home. All the money she can save she spends on clothes and she seems to worry more at the thought of not being able to have a new dress than at the fact that the family is actually having a hard time this winter. She is not altogether selfish and very willingly turns over her pay envelope unopened to her mother

on Saturday evenings. In many ways she seems to be the favorite daughter of the mother and her share of the family income is often greater than that of her older sisters although they contribute more to the family income.

Ada B.

Ada is far more capable than her sister Ruth. She is a bright wholesome girl, full of fun, eager to learn, and able to carry responsibility. She graduated from public school and went for one year to high school. Then she left to secure a position with a private dressmaker as a learner for \$5 a week. Here she did good work and was rapidly advanced to \$8. She has held that same position now for three years and her employer says that "some day she will make a real dressmaker and start an establishment of her own."

At home, Ada is the practical one. She aids her mother in the running of the home, making practical suggestions for the meals and for the saving of money for clothing and for the expenditure of the small family income. She differs a great deal from either of her sisters. Her evenings are spent reading or sewing. Her few friends are devoted to her and come to her with their difficulties because they really appreciate the value of her advice.

Less attractive in her personal appearance than the other two girls, she is far more attractive intellectually and will probably be the one that will make the most success of her trade life.

Mabel B.

Mabel is the butterfly of the B. family. She is only fifteen years old and has been working one year. She graduated from public school at the age of fourteen and secured a position with a private dressmaker at \$4.50 a week. She has kept this position for nearly a year now. Several times her employer has threatened to turn her out owing to the fact that she is often late to work or does not come at all. This tardiness is usually the result of late evenings as Mabel goes out a great deal either with her friends or with her sister Ruth to moving picture houses or parties. If she does not actually go to places of this kind, she visits with her friends and stays up until late at night, "folling my time away" Unlike Ada, Mabel is absolutely lacking in sense of responsibility and does not seem to realize the struggle the family is having this winter. She objects seriously to giving her share of her money to the family as she wants it to spend on clothing or amusements. However, this is due to her youth and to the fact that she is spoiled by the members of her family. There is no reason to believe that she will not in time settle down into a steady worker and "make good" in her profession.

Mollie E.

The home of the E's is as bright and cheerful and happy as one could desire. They occupy four rooms on Allen Street and although the Second Avenue "L" rumbles past their window and the street is full of crowds and noise, the family seem quite contented.

After climbing two flights of dark stairs one enters directly into the kitchen which is at the front of the house. This room is clean and kept in good order by the mother who is a thrifty housekeeper and far

more sympathetic with her children and interested in them than the average foreign mother. From this room one passes through two small inner bedrooms into the back room which is used as a combination living room, sleeping room and dining room. There is a bright green carpet on the floor, a heavy oak dining table in the center of the room upon which rests a vase filled with artificial flowers. A massive sideboard covered with cut glass and gaily decorated china, a couch which is used at night as a bed, several comfortable chairs, lace curtains at the windows hiding the neighbors clothes lines from view. In the evening a light from a kerosene lamp gives the room a home like appearance.

The family consists of the father mother three girls and one boy. The two older girls Mollie and Fanny are the regular wage earners of the family although the father brings home \$4 or \$5 a week. He is a carpenter and was at one time steadily employed, but he has had very little business this past winter. A boy who is just out of school and has taken a position as an office boy at \$6 a week.

Mollie left the public school in the seventh grade and took a position as an operator in a waist house. She started in at \$6 a week and is holding this same position for five years. She is now earning \$12 a week and according to her employer is one of the best workers he has ever had. This employer is unusually kind to the girl and much interested in her welfare. She was taken ill with appendicitis and forced to be out of work for six weeks. He paid her salary during the whole time and gladly took her back when she was able. Mollie enjoys her work. She has little use for a girl who is complainant. "I think she ought to be glad that she had work to do. If she would spend her time trying to do good work there wouldn't be so many girls hunting for jobs. Of course it is hard and I get sick of the noise, but I like to know that I can do my work well and

be able to help support the family. I do not know what I would have done this winter if I was laid off like the other girls and I would have been if I didn't always try to do my work".

For amusement the girls have joined settlement clubs. They are faithful members and almost always are on the committees for social affairs. The sisters are very rarely separated. "I would rather be with Fannie than with any other girl I know and what's the use of being sisters if you don't go out together. It is so much fun to come home and talk it all over." Sometimes on Saturday evenings the entire family go to a moving picture show.

There is happiness and comparative comfort in this home and Mollie will probably always be successful in her trade life.

Frieda R.

Frieda was born in Russia twenty-six years ago. She came to this country with her father and mother, four younger sisters and one brother when she was seventeen years old. She immediately secured a position with a private family and lived with them for over four years.

Things were not as bright for the little family as Mr. R. expected they would be in this "Land of Promise". He was in delicate health and was only able to secure temporary work now and then. The little money that Frieda sent home every month, although it was the full amount of her earnings and she kept nothing out for clothing or spending money, was not sufficient to support the family. As soon as the boy was fourteen years old he was taken out of school and put to work. He secured a position for \$3 a week and for a time things seemed more prosperous for the R's. However, the strain and worry had proved too much for Frieda's mother and she became ill and after a few months died. Frieda was not told of her mother's death for over a month. When she did learn of it, she decided

to give up her position and to seek employment in the city where she could be at home to care for the younger children.

The girl found it rather difficult to secure work as she had no training whatever, but at last through a newspaper advertisement she secured a position in a waist house as a hemstitcher at \$5 a week. She proved a good worker and was soon put on piece work. At the end of the four years, when the firm went out of business, she was earning from \$24 to \$26 a week, and was well able to meet the needs of the family.

Frieda went to school for two years and a half in Russia, and regrets the fact that she was not able to attend school in this country. "I never tell anybody I went to school in Russia because I know so little, and the schools over there are so different from here". The girl realizes the value of an education and is doing her best to give her sisters the opportunities for training that the city offers. Although for years Frieda and her brother have been the only support of the family, as her father is too ill to work, she has kept her sisters at school, although two of them are of working age. The older is finishing a business course at high school. Rebecca, who is sixteen years old, graduated from public school and started high school, but had to give it up on account of ill health. "She seems to be the only one of us that is not healthy. The rest of us grew up strong, but Rebecca never seems to have gotten over my mother's death. She worries and worries all the time. Last summer I thought that if she could go away to the country and stay for a few months that she would be alright, so I sent her up to the mountains and paid \$12 a week board for her. We had a hard time trying to pay this, but we managed to get along. We did without spending money because we thought Rebecca would come home strong. It didn't seem to do her much good. She had no friends in the country and was lonesome all the time. This summer I want to send her away where she can make friends among girls of her

age. I know I am not working and we have very little money, but I would do anything if I could help Rebecca get her health back.

Frieda has very little time for amusement as she spends all her evenings at home sewing and mending. She is very ambitious and is eager to learn the English language. She has few friends in the neighborhood but is anxious to make the acquaintance of "good girls". She keeps a strict watch over her sisters and will allow them to go to no place of amusement unless she can accompany them, and they have no friends of whom she does not approve.

Considering the disadvantages of Frieda's early life, she has so far made a great success of her work, and has done all in her power to enable her sisters to make a success of theirs "I only regret that I was not making enough money when my brother was fourteen to keep him at school.

Jennie H.

It is not an uncommon thing for a young immigrant girl to be exploited upon her arrival in this country. The case of Jennie is a striking example of the advantage that is taken of a girl because of her ignorance of the customs of the new land in which she finds herself. Jennie was born in Germany 18 years ago. Her mother and father are at the present time in Austria and since the out-break of the war, Jennie has not heard from them. She came to this country two years ago, because she wanted to make money and bring her family over. She had heard from friends who had come before that "It was a fine place for a girl." So, with this idea, one hot day in July, an attractive frightened girl applied at a shabby, broken-down, tenement house on Clinton Street for a room.

Mrs. W., the landlady, evidently saw her opportunity. Here was an attractive immigrant girl who knew nothing of the conditions or customs of the country and who also knew little of the value of American money. Therefore, she decided to make the most she could out of the girl, so she promised her a room and board for \$6.00 a week. This was the exact amount the girl earned in her first position. It is probable that if she were earning a greater amount, Mrs. W. would have seen fit to charge her accordingly.

Jennie had had very little education in her own country and what she had was of little value to her here. She immediately went to night school in order to learn English and started out in a search of work. She started in a feather house on East Broadway where she curled feathers for \$6.00 a week. She remained for three months and then left for a similar position on Broome Street where she was a brancher for \$7.00. Both these positions she secured through advertisements in the papers. She left this last place because it

was slow and was out of work for three months. All this time the rent accumulated and Mrs. W. never missed an opportunity to tell her that she was "a poor woman in need."

One day, after the girl was returning home from a fruitless search for work, she met the friend, through whose influence she had come to this country. This girl was working in a waist house on 26th Street, and thought she could get a "job" for Jennie as a finisher at that factory. The next morning, both girls started to the new place of work, and Jennie not only secured a position, but proved a very skillful hand sewer and was soon earning \$9.00 a week. After six months in this place, conditions became bad and the girl was laid off. Then became the long, vain search for employment. Waist and dress houses were not taking girls on, but laying them off and there seemed to be no place for Jennie. The landlady pressed her continually for money and when the girl suggested that perhaps she had better leave and find another place, Mrs. W. refused to let her take her clothing with her. The girl began to get desperate and stopped taking her meals in the place, and tried to live on what little she could buy from the push-carts in the neighborhood.

Eventually, Jennie drifted into an employment exchange of a philanthropic association. In spite of the difficult winter she had had, the girl was well dressed and appeared hopeful that things would turn for her, and begged very pitifully for work. When she was told that \$6.00 a week was entirely too much to pay for a room on Clinton Street, she showed no resentment towards Mrs. W., instead she said "You see, I suppose she needed the money. She is a poor woman and only gets what she earns from her pickle-push." An investigator immediately went down to see the conditions under which the girl lived, and was horrified by the appearance of the place. The house, a three room apartment was extremely dirty, and Mrs. W. was a repulsive looking woman. She had a cancer in the face and her clothing and general appearance was filthy.

their living, and she begged her family to allow her to leave Russia and come to this country. Mrs. R. had a brother living in Brooklyn, and when the girl became very insistent, she wrote to him and made arrangements to send Celia to this country. The girl was overjoyed. She seemed to have no fear at all of the strange land. "I knew everyone in America was a friend of strangers and I thought it was an easy country to make money in." So on the morning of July 25th, 1914, she landed on the steamer Czar, and was met by her uncle Morris.

This uncle was not particularly anxious to take the responsibility of the girl. He found a position for her as a finisher on waists at \$5.00 a week, and secured a room in the home of Mrs. L., on East 9th Street. Mrs. L. is a young Jewish woman about 33 years of age. The family occupy four rooms on the second floor, front. Celia has a bed in a small dark inner room, which she shares with another girl, for which she pays \$4.00 a month. She also pays ten cents for breakfast and twenty-five cents for dinner. Her lunch she takes with her to her place of work. While Mrs. L. is a very ignorant woman, she seems to be fond of Celia, although she knows very little about the girl's life. The home, however, is not an attractive nor a healthful one. The rooms are small and not kept clean and the seven people are quite hopelessly crowded in the small space.

This winter has been a hard one for both Celia and the L. family. Early in November, Celia lost her position because "There wann't no work," and the girl found it impossible to secure another position. This was probably largely due to the fact that she can only speak Yiddish, and she had had a little education or trade experience. She was unable to secure help from her uncle in Brooklyn as he had moved and failed to give Celia his new address. Efforts were made to locate him, but without success. In the meantime, Mr. L. lost his position and things became black for the little family. In spite of this however, there seemed to be no danger of Celia being turned out into

Jennie slept with one of her landlady's children in a dark inside room. Mrs. W. did nothing but complain of what a hard time she was having and how much she needed Jennie's money, but she absolutely refused to allow Jennie to leave unless money was paid to release the girl's trunk. Finally she consented to give up the trunk in exchange for \$5.00 and Jennie was transferred to a boarding home on West 110th Street.

In this new atmosphere, Jennie began to develop. Her physical condition, which had been undermined by lack of proper food improved and she became a healthy fine looking girl. It was impossible, however, to place her at her trade owing to the fact that the season was slack. She was placed in one of the relief employment rooms where she could earn enough money to pay her board of \$3.00, and where she was not incurring new debts. She is there at the present time, although effort is being made to secure a regular position for her. In the meantime, she is continuing her work in English, as her ignorance of the language is one of her big handicaps.

Celia R.

Celia is an unusually attractive Jewish girl, 19 years of age. She has dark curly hair, black eyes and unusually high coloring. She is so striking-looking that she often attracts attention on the streets although she is quiet and inconspicuous in her manner. She has been in America less than a year and still speaks very broken English.

Celia's father keeps a grocery store in Russia. Her own mother died soon after Celia was born, and her father married again, but there were no children by this second marriage. She went to school in Russia for two or three years, but as she says: "The schools are not like they are here. I don't know what grade I was in and I didn't learn much, but reading and writing." When she was 16 years old, she became very much interested in the letters that were read to her by some of her friends from young girls who had come to America to earn

the streets. It was true that the family might starve, but they would not desert their boarder in her need. A temporary position was found in one of the relief sewing rooms to help Celia over the worst difficulties and her record there showed faithfulness and interest in her work. Later it was possible to secure a scholarship for her at the Manhattan Trade School, where she could learn to become more proficient in hand sewing. The girl attended there faithfully for six weeks, and was placed directly from there into a position paying six dollars a week. Her faithfulness and interest in her work, together with her attractive manner will doubtless be of great help to her in her places of work.

Fortunately, Celia is an ambitious girl. Just as soon as possible, she enrolled in an evening school where she could learn English and her improvement in her short time in this country is remarkable. She spends most of her evenings at home reading. "I do not go around much though I do like to dance and I do like moving pictures, but I read most everything I find, because I want to learn English. I read newspapers mostly, because they are cheap and easy to get. Mr. L. always has one in the house. I do not like to go around much at night alone, because men bother me. All I want to do is learn to do a job well, so I can get some money. No, I don't want to move to a better home. Mrs. L. treats me fine and I am happy here."

It looks as though this girl would have a good opportunity because of her personal attractiveness and her strength of character to "make good" in this new land.

Dora S.

Dora is a pretty irresponsible girl of sixteen. She was born in Russia and came to this country two years ago with her father. Last winter he returned to Russia to bring back her mother and her five younger brothers and sisters. While there the war broke out and he has been unable to return and Dora has received no word from him. In the meantime, she is living with her cousin, Mrs. D., and her husband and child in a two room rear tenement. The house is in bad condition and the stairs and halls are dirty. Dora sleeps on a cot in the kitchen and pays \$2.25 a week board.

Mr. D. is a night watchman, earning \$15.00 a week, but during this winter he was out of work for three months, and the family accumulated bills for rent and food. Mrs. D. has been in this country a year and only speaks Yiddish. They have one child, a boy of two years. While they are willing to keep Dora with them because they feel responsible for her, they still feel that it is somewhat of an imposition to have to support a girl who is so distantly related to them. They do not hesitate to nag her and complain of how much she eats, and to show very plainly their disappointment when she comes home without work. As the result of this, Dora has been desperately unhappy this winter and has more than once threatened to leave them and to "find her own spot."

Dora went to school for three and a half years in Russia but did little more than to learn to read and write. When she came to this country she knew nothing of the language and entered evening school for the purpose of studying English. Just as soon as she understood the language at all, she secured a position in an underwear house on Wooster Street as an operator. There she remained one year earning \$6.00. Her record here was good and she lost her position only because times were hard. Then followed three months without work; months of continual nagging at home because she couldn't obtain a position; months when she walked block after block in the vain search

for a "job" because she had no carfare to ride. At last she secured a position in a waist house on Ludlow Street, where she did piece work which amounted to about \$3.00 a week. This barely paid her board. As the winter wore on this position became more and more undesirable. She would earn \$3.00 one week and the next, business would be bad and she would sometimes only earn \$1.25. She is still in this place, but says now she almost always makes the full \$3.00.

The home life of Dora is not a very good or attractive one, so she seeks her amusement elsewhere. Since she has been unable to afford nickles for the moving pictures, she has been depending upon her friends for invitations. As she is quite a pretty girl, she has a great many friends among the boys and men in the neighborhood, who are only too glad to treat her to a "show" when Saturday night comes around. Effort has been made to interest the girl in different clubs, but it seems impossible to hold her unless there is plenty of dancing and "fellows to show you a good time." In spite of this, however, Dora is, to all appearances, a good girl, simply anxious to escape from the surroundings in which she finds herself and to enjoy to the full all the good times that her sixteen years offer her.

Elsie B.

Elsie is not strong enough to work and has no family to care for her. She was born twenty-two years ago in Austria and lived with her father, mother, one sister and four brothers, until five years ago when she came to this country, to "get a chance." She seems to have come from a fairly well-to-do and intelligent family. Her father is a grain dealer in Bukovina, Austria. She has a brother studying to be a doctor, another an engineer and another studying to be a professor. The younger brother and sister are still in school in Austria. Elsie was educated in the public schools in that country and is able to read and write in English, but speaks very brokenly.

When Elsie first came to this country, she took a position as a house-work maid, earning \$20 a month. She staid in this place for two years and saved the greater part of her money. She then took another position, but as this only paid \$16, she left in order to get more money. By this time, she had begun to notice the attitude of the Jewish girls in America towards housework, and felt that this work was very much below her. She then went into a waist house as a finisher, earning, after she had learned the trade, from \$9 to \$12 a week. Just as she was beginning to be proficient in the work, there was a strike and she was forced to leave. Since that time she has held three different positions in waist-houses and has left each time because the work was slow. Last winter, when she was out of work for several weeks, she took a position as a house-maid again, but she was taken ill and left to enter a hospital. This winter she has spent most of her time in the hospital.

During the five years that Elsie has been in this country, she has saved \$100 which has been in a private bank on Rivington Street. This bank closed this winter and Elsie has been unable to secure any of her money. The girl is greatly disturbed, but refused to accept charity, more than borrowing "a few cents off my friends." This is her own story of the situation:- "I left my family in Austria and came to this country. My girl friend who used to live in my town sent me the money to come over. She had a husband in this country who died. She has a boy twelve years old to support. She married again, but her husband is no good and she has to support him. I do not know where they are now living. I am worried about my father. I used to hear every two weeks, but I have not heard from him for over six months. He is not too old to fight and my three brothers are in the war, and I am afraid that they have been killed. One thing I would like you to do for me is to get news about my father. I saved \$100, which I put in the bank and you know they have broke up and I cannot get it back

They are paying some of the money to families where there are no children, but do not give single girls any. I guess I will take a few children with me, maybe I can get some then. Oh! no. I have no relatives or anybody in this country and do not want to know anybody. I am just for myself."

Elsie is boarding this winter with a Mrs. L., who has a three room tenement on First Avenue. The place is in a filthy condition and not fit for any girl to live in. The woman is not at all interested in Elsie and does not care what becomes of her and threatens to turn her out if she doesn't pay her board. The girl pays \$2.00 a week for the room and she gets most of her own meals. When asked what she had for dinner, she said:- "I get a bottle of milk and some bread at the bakers and a pickle from the pushcart and that's all I need."

It has been absolutely impossible to place the girl because of her physical condition. At different times during the last two years she has been in Beth Israel Hospital, Jefferson and Cherry Streets, and the Woman's Infirmary, 321 East 15th Street. Her record at these hospitals show that she was suffering from diseases, many of them largely due to malnutrition. Her record reads in each case "Discharged Improved", never cured. She is at present suffering from Neuresthenia and Intestinal Intoxication. Elsie has taken a great dislike to hospitals as she feels that all they do is to experiment on her and she refuses to go to a convalescent home for month's rent. As the girl is of age and has no family in this country it is impossible to force her to. All she wishes of anyone is first to find her father, and secondly to secure her money from the bank.

A letter was sent to the Austrian Consul at Vienna in hopes of securing news of her family, but without success. Efforts are being made to secure some of the money from the bank. Until that time, Elsie will probably drift from one temporary position to another, as she is not in a condition to secure a permanent one.

Anna P.

Anna, aged nineteen, Jewish, came from Russia two years ago with her younger sister. She received her education in Russia where she went to school for seven years. However, the education does not seem to have fitted her for any work in this new country. When she was only in New York a short time, she had a quarrel with her sister and they separated and went to different parts of the city to live. Anna secured a room with a family living at 1409 Madison Avenue and paid \$4.00 a week board. Her first position was as an operator on skirts in a house on lower Broadway where she received \$5.00 a week. She was there nine months and then went out on a strike and was out of work for nine weeks, during which time her board bill accumulated. She then secured another position also as an operator on skirts at \$6.50 but she seems to have been followed by strikes and was only here four months when another strike was called and she was out of work this time for three months. After that she worked for a year with another skirt house on Broadway receiving at piece work between \$7 and \$8 and left this winter because the work was slow. She seems to have a very good record and while she is not particularly quick she is of average ability and is faithful in her work.

Anna lives in a small furnished room. This room is kept neat and clean and Mrs. K., the landlady seems to be very fond of Anna, but as she is a poor woman and very much in need of money, she has threatened to turn Anna out several times, so that she might again receive money for the room. Because of this, Anna found it necessary to appeal for aid from a charitable organization and several times was loaned money to meet her board bill. She, however, developed a begging instinct and seemed to invariably prefer receiving charity to working at anything except her trade. A good position at housework was offered to her by the organization which had been paying her board, and she absolutely refused to consider it. "I won't do anything to lower myself.

If my parents in Russia knew of it they would have nothing to do with me. While I am willing to work, and I dont want to accept charity, I would let Mrs. K. turn me out before I would do housework." However, it seemed wise in the face of this, not to give Anna any more financial aid. Fortunately, in a few weeks the girl secured a position in her own trade for \$5.00, and is working there now and is able to pay her board.

Sophie S.

Two years ago, when only seventeen years old, Sophie came to the United States from Russia. "All my life I have wanted to come to this country. I had friends here and I heard so much about it. My mother, she didn't want me to, but I was so very unhappy, she let me come. I had a girl friend here who said she would meet me and find work for me. No! I was not at all afraid. I was just excited. I didn't like to leave my mother, but she wouldn't come, and I just had to."

According to her promise, Sophie's "girl friend" met her at the boat and took her to a room on Essex Street where she had secured a place for her. Here Sophie shared a small bed-room with another girl. She paid \$3 a month for the room and \$1.60 a week for two meals. The family with whom she boards is large and there is very little money. There are seven people crowded into four rooms. The house is dirty and ill-kept and it is not a very happy home for a young and lonely girl. However, Sophie says "I miss my mother a lot and I dont like the place I live in very much, but it is great to be free to do what I want. There are so many new things to see and so much happening on the streets. I can be happy for hours, leaning out of the window watching it. I hope some day to be able to save money to get my mother over here, but I am afraid that she doesn't want to come."

Soon after coming to this country, Sophie secured a position as an operator on children's dresses with a firm on Wooster Street. She was there nine months earning between \$6 and \$7 on piece-work. She proved a skillful worker and left at the end of that time, because she found a better position. This time she earned \$8.50 a week with a firm on Greene Street. After two months, business became bad, Sophie was laid off and it was almost impossible for her to secure work. The woman with whom she lived constantly threatened to turn her out and the girl seemed much changed from a happy, care-free girl to an anxious and worried one. About this time, she heard of a girls' club through some other girls, who were also seeking for positions with her and she went to the leader and applied for help. Temporary work was secured for her in a relief work-room until there was again a call for operators, when Sophie was almost the first one placed, owing to the fact that she really was a good worker. She is now earning between \$8 and \$9 a week.

Sophie is very fond of the "movies." Almost nightly she goes with a group of girls to one of the many near-by theatres and spends a couple of hours there, forgetting everything, but the imaginary world in which she finds herself. She has an extremely vivid imagination. "I just love to make up stories. It must be great to be a writer and to do stories for the papers. Yes! I do love the movies, especially the exciting ones. I would like to be a moving picture actress, but I do not know how and I don't dare give up my job." Sophie is also fond of dancing and goes frequently to the dance halls in the neighborhood of her home with other friends. She knows a number of boys now, but seems to have a very natural wholesome feeling toward them. In fact, she has very little use for girls who are "silly over men." She is very faithful to her work and ambitious and eager for a good time.

Life in America is still a new and interesting experience for her. She does not seem to feel the monotony of work, or to desire much that she does not

already possess.

Anna R.

Anna came to the United States over a year ago, because she had heard so much about the good wages and the good times of working girls in New York. She has had rather an eventful life. She was born in Russia, but her parents have travelled from country to country, living for a time in Austria and later in Germany and finally in England. Most of the girl's schooling was in England, but at the age of sixteen when she went to work, she could do little more than read and write and was entirely untrained. She worked for two years with a dressmaker in London, giving her time for the first year in exchange for board and training. At the end of that time, she took another position which she held for a year and a half earning \$4 or \$5 a week, according to whether or not trade was good. She became tired of the monotony and began begging her parents to allow her to come to the United States. She had a friend in New York who wrote her brilliant letters of her success here. Finally even the father became interested and decided that he would come with the girl and see if they could save money enough to send for the mother and the two children later.

Almost immediately upon her arrival in this country, Anna secured a position in a skirt house on Broome Street as a finisher and did really good work there soon earning \$9 a week which seemed a great deal to the girl. However, the father was less fortunate. He drifted from one occupation to another and finally was taken quite seriously ill, contracted tuberculosis and was placed in the hospital where he remained for several months, leaving Anna entirely upon her own resources. She secured a room on East Ninety-eighth Street and all went well until work became slack and she was laid off. Her landlady would not

a minute for her pay and turned the girl out of doors keeping in her possession most of Anna's clothing or what she considered payment for two weeks board which the girl owed. Anna secured another room on Ninty-eighth Street, only to have a similar experience two eeks later. About this time she applæd at one of the philanthropic employments exchanges for work. People became interested in her case. Money was loaned the girl to pay her board and work was again secured for her at \$6 a week.

Meantime, her father had come out of the hospital and secured a position. Then desperate letters began to come from the monther in England. War had broken out, conditions were very bad and the mother and children were actually starving. As bothe the father and daughter were now working steadily, the rest of the family were sent for, and they settled in a small three room tenement in Brooklyn where they are now living.

Anna has one great failing. She becomes alomost instantly dependent upon others for help. When loaned \$2, her efforts at seeking work instantly stop and she seemed quite happy and content until that money was entirely gone. It was finally necessary to refuse her any financial aid at all, although she was often in very great need of it. She has however, held faithfully to the last position secured for her although it is hard work. She is extremely devoted to her Mother and sisters and for them will do anything in her power. While there is extreme poverty in the home and while the father and mother are both in delicate health there is still a strong family feeling which holds them together.

Ella G.

Among the ardent supporters of Socialism is Ella, a twenty-one year old Jewish girl who is not only interested in all radical movements but actually helps to spread various forms of violent propaganda. She has been so greatly influenced by these movements that her whole mode of life has actually changed.

Ella graduated from public school and went immediately to work as an operator on waists and dresses. Although she started at \$5 a week she rapidly advanced until she was earning \$10 or \$12. Her work record in her places of employment has been good, but her reason for losing her positions brings out many of her characteristics. Two positions out of the five she has held, she lost because she was one of the main leaders in a strike. Another place she lost because the "boss" said "I was getting the girls discontented". The other two places she was laid off because of slack times. Although Ella has only a public school education, she has taken advantages of various opportunities to join different kinds of classes. She has been in different evening school classes, elocution classes, history classes and has attended lectures on Socialism and Women Suffrage. She seems to be interested in almost every radical question of the day. Also Ella reads a great deal, but never the ordinary story. She reads Tolstoy and also the "Call" each day and subscribes to the "Masses". She cuts out from the daily newspapers, all articles pertaining to such movements as the I.W.O. and keeps a scrap-book of which she is very proud. She is never at a loss for a quotation from some radical reformer. While upon short acquaintance, this girl would impress one as unusually brilliant, considering her opportunities, it is interesting to note that she stood very low in a Binet Simon Test which she took ~~last~~ this winter. Again her fanaticism showed.

as for example, when she was asked the question "what is justice?" she answered; "There is no such thing" and later when asked "what is charity?", she answered "It is a terrible thing" and burst into tears.

Ella is an unusually kind-hearted girl. There is nothing that she would not do for another girl, although she is very bitter and hard toward those of the class who have had greater opportunities than herself. "If you want to know who makes all the trouble in the world, look at the ones with money". When she was out on a strike last Winter, she was arrested twice for disturbances upon the streets. This was rather surprising as the strike was not a large one and there were no signs of violence on either side by any other persons. As the result of this, when conditions were finally settled, Ella was the only girl not taken back into the firm.

The family lives in four rooms on East Tenth Street, overlooking Tompkins Square Park. There is a married sister, one unmarried and three younger brothers. The mother is a rather simple, ignorant and honest woman who seems a little bewildered at the strange ideas of her daughters, but at the same time remains quite uninterested. The father has been dead for a number of years and so the support of the family is entirely in the hands of the children, but as they are all of working age, this has not been very difficult and they have not felt it a great burden. Ella is seldom at home. She says that she only stays at home about one night each week when she does her laundry, except, of course, on Friday nights "when we all try to stay in and have dinner together. A great deal of their time is spent at the home of the married sister. This girl seems to have somewhat broken away from the conditions under which her family live, and her new home is attractive and pleasant. She seems to be a much more normal type than either of her sisters.

It will be interesting to see what the result of this tendency toward anarchism will be. Evidently it has been one of the primal reasons why Ella has not been able to keep her positions, and her growing discontent makes

her more and more a ring-leader. If she has more control and a greater capacity for clear thinking, she might be a valuable leader among working girls, but her erratic and uncontrolled emotion seems to be not only bad for herself, but for all with whom she comes in contact.

Minnie G.

Minnie has a far better work record than her sister Ella. She secured a position when she was fifteen years old and kept this same position as operator for ten years. During this period she was advanced from \$5 to \$12 a week and her record for faithfulness, industry and good work is excellent. Unfortunately at the end of ten years, it was necessary for her to give up machine work owing to the fact that she had a very serious illness. This illness proved to be a malignant growth. After the removal of this she was ill for along time and finally a position was secured for her at part time in a day nursey to care for the young children. Even this work proved too hard. The growth again returned and a second operation was necessary. At the present time she is recovering from this illness and is looking for a position in the country for the summer months.

Minnie is even more fanatical than Ella. This is partly due to her physical condition. IN the Binet Test which she took this winter, she failed in many of the nine-year-old tests. She is nervous and easily influenced by her sister. Her ambition is to be A social worker and she is interested in radical reforms of all kinds. She is constantly complaining of conditions which seem to her unfair. Often she becomes quite hysterical when she reports violations of laws or more often the lack of laws. This Winter she became very much exercised because so many pedlers were sent away from Tompkins Square Park, near which she lives. It was a long time before she could be convinced that there was a good reason for this law.

Unfortunately, Minnie will probably never be able to continue her

work owing to her physical weakness which seems to continue each year. It will be difficult to find a place for her as she is unable to earn an adequate salary and yet she is very suspicious of any attempt at charity.

Sarah M.

There is a tenement house nest the River on East Eighth Street. ON one side are great warehouses and across the way a stable yard. The while street is dark and deserted at night save for an occasional gay group who frequent the saloon on the next corner. One does not expect to find a real home here and it is a delightful surprise to open the door of the tenement where sixteen year old Sarah lives.

The M. family live on the second floor front in three rooms for which they pay \$12 a month. The rooms are neat and well-kept and there are very clear signs of ambition and desire for pleasant surroundings in the furnishings of the little rooms. Mr. M. has always been a night watchman and kept his last position for eight years. He is at the present time out of work due to the bad conditions this winter. He is a very unusual man and takes an almost pathetic interest in the four children. Mrs. M. died three years ago and it would seem as though the father has taken the responsibility of both parents. There is a boy of nineteen, a bookkeeper the only regular wage-earner; a younger boy of sixteen, who has just graduated from the public school and who is beginning to give piano lessons, Sarah is too frail to keep a position very long and a little nine year old girl still is school.

The front room has a rag carpett on the floor, comfortable oak furniture, an upright piano, bought on the installment plan, lace curtains at the windows, family portraits on the walls and the whole room is kept immaculate and orderly. There is a couch in this room for the older boy. The father

and younger boy sleep in a bed in the kitchen, and the two girls in the small inner room. There are plants in the windows and one feels immediately upon entering that here is real home life.

Sarah is the only delicate one in the family. She went to public school 20 and left in the 7 B grade and was sent to the Trade School to learn dressmaking. She was placed immediately in a novelty company at sewing at \$4 a week. After three months she was taken ill, probably as she was unable to stand the regular hours of work and was out of work for two months. She then went into the Artistic Novelty Company on East 3rd Street and remained here for five months receiving \$5. Again she was taken ill and forced to leave. Since that time she has held only temporary positions. Her father has begun to realize the fact that the girl will probably never be well and has persuaded her to stop work and enter an evening school. He hopes to "make a librarian out of her". During the day she keeps the home in order, makes her own clothes and those of her little sister and attends to the wants of the small family.

The home life here seems to be unusually happy. With great pride, Mr. M/ will show you the picture of the family group taken "the first day my oldest boy put on long pants". He will get out a red plush album and show you his family in the old country. He has only been here for eight years and while he thinks this is the only place, in which to live, he misses his old friends there. Then he will call upon the oldest son to show you a drawing he had made. This boy seems to have unusual talent in this direction and is always making posters and signs for the different clubs to which he belongs. He is studying designing in the evening school and hopes some day to be able to take a course in art. Then the father will call upon the sixteen year old boy to "play something for the lady" and will sit and beam and smile at the exhibition. He is very sympathetic and tender with

Sarah because she has to "wear braces" but his favorite seems to be the little girl. If she is asleep at the time of the visit he will go in and bring her out in his arms to show her to you.

There is probably no future for Sarah as far as her trade is concerned. She will always have to be taken care of. There seems to be, however, little doubt but what the family will assume the responsibility as each member seems to feel that "Sarah is a little different from us and can't stand so much"

Bella K.

Bella, Jewish, aged eighteen lives with her parents on Norfolk Street. The family occupy four rooms which are kept very clean and are attractively furnished according to their standards. In the living room there is a gay carpet on the floor; coarse lace curtains on the windows; shabby, but comfortable armchairs and a table with a gay cover, a lamp and several books. The room is rather crowded with ornaments, but in spite of this it has an atmosphere of comfort.

The father is now an invalid, and it has been impossible for him to work for over a year. Before his illness he was a carpenter and able to support his family without help from the Charities. However, it was necessary for the children to go to work as soon as they were fourteen years of age. The mother is a fairly intelligent woman who is interested in her home and children, but who is inclined to be a whiner and complainer. Although she has been in this country twenty years she speaks very broken English.

The oldest child, a boy, a graduate of public school has been working in an office for two years, but has been out of work a good part of the present winter. Apparently he is a boy of good habits and when working helps to support the family. 100- The second child, A GIRL AG^d nineteen, was

married this winter and now lives in the Bronx. All the money the family had saved was spent on the wedding which was held in a hall on Avenue D. As Bella said "A Jewish man always prays he may live to give his oldest daughter a big wedding." No amount of reasoning would make the family consider lessening expenses on this occasion. The youngest child, a boy of eleven, is still attending school.

Bella is at present the only member of the family at work. Her school record was excellent. She graduated from Public School 62 at the age of fourteen. She started High School but when she saw the conditions of the family she felt that she ought to go to work. She tells a rather interesting story of how she first realized that she had no right to continue her education. She needed twenty-five cents to pay a gymnasium fee and went home and asked her parents for it. Nothing was said to her, but later she overheard her father and mother debating upon how they were going to meet all the new debts that her education would cost. Bella said she didn't sleep all night and in the morning told her father she had decided to give up school and go to work. Although nothing was said to encourage her in this act, it was evident that her decision was a great relief to the family. For a time after this she went to evening school but said that so few of the girls were serious about the work that it made it difficult for those who were so she left.

Mr. & Mrs. K. are orthodox Jews. It has been for the last two years that Bella has been allowed to work on Saturdays and even now it is under protest and because of the pressure of actual need. On Friday nights the girls are not allowed out and the Jewish customs are adhered to.

Bella first went to work on Fifth Avenue as a carder for hatpins, receiving \$4 a week. She was not satisfied as she was anxious to get into the sewing trades, but at the times she was unable to secure a position in a dress house. For a year she went as a stock girl in an underwear house and then obtained what she long desired, a position as "learner" on dresses in a good waist house. She remained in this place a year and three months. As far

as her work was concerned she showed ability, and the forelady took a great deal of interest in her. Bella was anxious to become a designer and an opportunity was given her to practice this kind of work. Although she only received \$6, she was at the same time receiving valuable training. Unfortunately, she became very jealous of the attention shown another girl and left without warning because 2perhaps you can't understand but I could not stay there and keep my self-respect". I would rather starve than be ptt upon." This was the first time that any evidence was shown by Bella of irresponsibility or unreasonableness, but this trait has since developed to a marked degree. From that position she went as an improver to a private dressmaker on Upper Broadway. Again her employer seems to have taken unusual interest in her and to have given her opportunities to develop and improve her skill. At the end of the season she did not feel that she could keep the girl longer, but allowed her to come every day while out of work, and make her own clothes there, while she was taught more about her trade and in this way secured a valuable apprenticeship. As soon as trade was again good her employer promised to take the girl back. Bella then went to another dress house as finisher at \$7 a week but left after a month because she said wouldn't "work for that much money". This seemed rather strange as it was the largest salary the girl has ever received. She also refused to go back to the dressmaker who now had a position for her as she said: "That woman don't appreciate me and I do not want to work for her". After several weeks of unemployment when conditions grew worse and worse at home, the girl finally took a position in another dress house as finisher at \$6 a week.

During this past year, Bella has developed certain unfortunate characteristics which are undoubtedly hindering her advancement in work. She has become almost violently anarchistic, but seems to have no good arguments upon which she bases her opinions. She is often incoherent in her statements and will sometimes talk for five or six minutes without making any point at all.

Not only that, but the girl is not to be trusted. She will make promises and break them without apparently any sense of having done wrong and will always have what seems to her a proper excuse. An attempt has been made to get the girl to have a Binet Simon Test as her actions of late have been rather peculiar, but she will not consent of her own accord and there does not seem to be sufficient ground to enforce it. The most harmful thing she is doing is influencing a number of younger girls and leading them on to a spirit and distrust quite foreign to their natures.

For amusement Bella has always belonged to a girls Club. She changes this club quite frequently as she is continually quarrelling with some member. She rarely goes to a moving picture show and almost never the dances. She is a healthy normal girl, fond of being out-doors. Often in the Spring and Fall she will spend all Sunday at Van Cortlandt Park, the Bronx, walking or when possible playing tennis. She has so many good points that it would seem as though she may not be entirely responsible for the strange streak that she has so recently developed.

SUMMARY.

The most casual survey of these fifty cases reveals the fact that the conditions under which the majority of these girls live and work are not consistent with the normal American standards of living. For the most part, homes are sordid, education totally inadequate and the trade histories not only show change of position and low wages, but also frequent periods of unemployment.

Upon closer study one finds that desperate poverty is at the root of much of the trouble. This poverty affects the physical, mental and often moral life of the girl to an alarming extent. Temporary hardship is some-

times stimulating but the steady haunting reality year after year deadens the energies.

In the first place, the girl's health is often seriously impaired. The food is insufficient for her growing needs; her clothing does not give her the necessary protection, and the crowded tenement in which she lives makes it impossible for her to have fresh air or quiet in her room. Adding to this the constant anxiety it is small wonder that many of the girls are delicate and unable to hold their positions. Only youth, which seems able to endure mighty tests, enable them to stand the strain.

But perhaps the effect of extreme poverty upon the girl's mental life is even more demoralizing. We find her leaving public school at the age of fourteen often without graduating and with no proper preparation for any work. She generally goes not even choose the trade she enters. It's all accident. She reads an advertisement in the paper or sees the sign "Girl Wanted" and applies regardless of the kind of work. For the first two years before she reaches her sixteenth birthday, she has great difficulty in securing and holding positions and seldom can earn more than \$4 or \$5 a week. Even at the end of that time, she is poorly equipped for any trade. Through no fault of her own she has been forced into the army of the untrained:

In the face of this, it is not strange that the girl's whole attitude toward life is affected. The constant pressure at home; the realization that after hours of fatiguing work there is not enough money earned to meet the actual necessities of life; the dull monotonous future stretching ahead, deadens ambition and leaves the girl little of the hope or buoyancy of youth.

And lastly, these conditions often bring with them great moral dangers. The lack of privacy in the home life is in itself a dangerous influence.

In home after home the girls share the room with their parents. This same crowded condition drives them away from home for their amusement. It is a rare home where a girl can entertain her friends. The moving picture house, the dance hall and the street are the girl's play grounds, and often the companions made there are far from safe.

And after all, what is the cure? Surely some laws could be enacted or existing laws be more rigidly enforced, so that these conditions could be at least in part mitigated. In the first place our system of education should be revised to meet this new need. With the working age raised from fourteen to sixteen years and a system of continuation school inaugurated, it would be possible to send out girls better trained than previously. In addition to this there is a crying need for more vocational guidance. During the past few months a laboratory class has been opened in connection with the Manhattan Trade School. Here girls have been placed and been tried at different trades until the one for which they were best fitted was found. Work of this kind is invaluable. No girl should be allowed to secure her working papers without being given this opportunity for a test of this nature.

With this better preparation, wages might to a certain extent be advanced, but without doubt, more arbitrary measures are needed. The minimum wage would mean much to these girls. Out of the fifty cases cited only two girls were saving money and both of these were receiving over \$9. a week. It has been shown in many investigations that girls cannot live according to any normal standard on \$5, \$6 or \$7 a week. If we have so far failed in our economic life to make it possible for a girl to receive a living wage, we must secure it by legislation until such time as it will come by the adjustment of economic forces.

Better supervision of places of recreation and the enforcing of

laws in relation to them would do much to safeguard the girl at play.
She must have amusement, after her long hard day and it is the duty of
the city to see that she secures it under proper conditions.

Questionnaire Used in Study.

Name	Address	Occupation
Age	Date of Birth	Birthplace
Religion	Years in New York	F. M.

School History			
Public , private, parochial			
Last school	Grade		
Years in school	age of leaving	date of leaving	reason for leaving
Age at beginning work			
Work before leaving school			

Special Training	
Name of school	Dates of attendance
public evening	
business	Subjects
trade	
other	

Home Conditions	
Home with family	Amount contributed to family income
father	
mother	Number of wage earners in family
sisters	
brothers	
Home with other relatives	
Boarding	
	Cost
Furnished Room	

Employment Record							
Date	time	Name and address	Industry	kind of work	wages	how	reason for
employed	held	of firm				doing	leaving

Budget	
Board	Contribution to family
Rent	carfare
	luncheon
Physical condition	Amusement
defects noted	Savings
complaint	Other uses
Mental condition	

Remarks.